

Why do we bud Roses, and ornamental trees and fruit trees?

Budding gives us the ability to produce certain plant forms.

For example:

1. Bush roses or Standard Hybrid T roses or floribunda roses are all propagated by budding onto a rootstock.

***Robin will demonstrate this procedure***

2. When weeping and specific named varieties of ornamental or fruiting trees are grown, they have already been grafted or budded.

When established orchards are improved by 'working the tops' with new cultivars ie grafting the old trees with newer varieties, this will often give an insect or disease resistance. In a changing climate fruit trees might need to be bred for better drought tolerance, or higher yields. (Robin will explain)

Budding is principally made up of two parts:

1. The understock

This is normally a seed grown wild rose or can also be grown as a hardwood cutting.

2 The budwood:

These are pieces of current season's rose wood of a named variety (eg Mr Lincoln) that are cut off and prepared by the individual removal of its buds (with a sharp knife).

These buds then inserted into a T cut made in the understock.

(Robin will demonstrate this process) Compatibility of the budwood with the rootstock is vital.

One by one the T cuts are made at ground level in the understock. (Robin will demonstrate this procedure).

Our nurseries are full of trees that owe their beauty to the fact that they are grafted or budded onto a standard (5-6ft high) understock, especially those that have a weeping or cascading form.



Examples :

Weeping flowering cherry (*Prunus subhirtella* ***pictured***) is grafted onto a Mazzard cherry rootstock (*Prunus avium*, ) Weeping dogwood (*Cornus florida*, *L. var. pendula*, Dipp.), is grafted onto flowering dogwood rootstock (*Cornus florida*)

When buying a weeping tree today with the rootstock of 2-3metres, the tree is referred to as a 'weeping standard'.