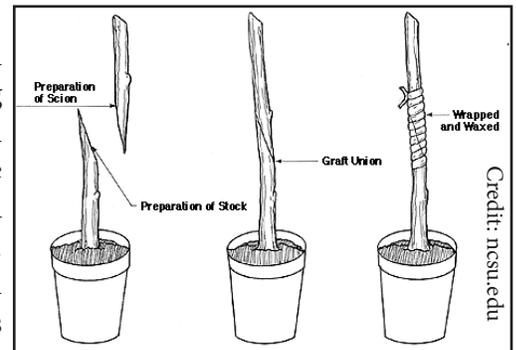


Happy New Year! We are hitting the ground running in 2018. Major developments are scheduled for each month this year and we are excited to grow in size and in quality with you. With an additional hot callous house and heated greenhouse to fill; we are currently focused on winter grafting.

Grafting is a labor intensive process that requires a high level skill and attention to detail. For those that may be unfamiliar, grafting describes any of a number of techniques in which a section of stem with leaf buds (known as scion wood) is inserted into the stock of a tree (referred to as rootstock or understock). The graft is then secured and sealed by being wrapped tightly with a rubber band and dipped in wax. The new growth will result in the desired hybrid variety. The diagram on the right displays Splice Grafting; a method perfect for deciduous trees and one we commonly use.

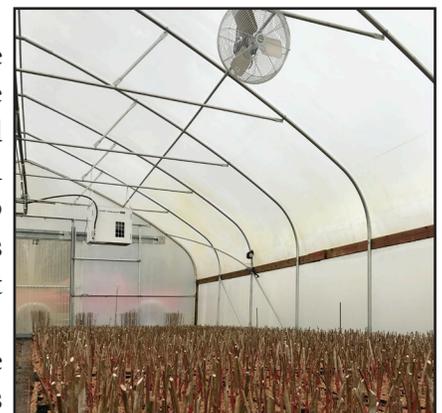


Due to the cold of winter, once grafted, plants are moved to the hot callous house. From the images on the left you can see a small pipe that runs through the middle of a larger one. This small pipe carries hot water the length of the covered structure. The larger pipes, covered by insulation, provide a perfect place for the graft to rest; snug and warm. For added protection, insulation is fastened to wooden boards and then placed on top of

the secured graft. The containers, however, stay out in the cold; allowing the graft to heal while the plant remains dormant. For plants that do not start out in containers, such as bareroot grafts or smaller container grafts, sawdust is used to cover the roots to avoid damage.

After 2-4 weeks, depending on the variety, plants are moved to the heated greenhouses. They will stay here until planting season. We were able to transform one of our already existing greenhouses into our 3rd heated greenhouse. An inflated double poly covering helps insulate the space. A propane heater runs on each side of the greenhouse along with fans that help circulate the warm air. The goal is to keep the greenhouse at about 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Just warm enough to keep the grafts from freezing. A frozen graft will not properly heal resulting in unusable product.

Along side many other endeavors, this grafting process will continue through the beginning of March. We are excited to continue perfecting this process and we look forward to seeing these beautiful babies grow up.



LOOKING AHEAD:

Inventory is almost complete.
Final order confirmations will be sent out early next month.