

Applewise Fruit Trees

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Grafting Service

This service is intended for gardeners, smallholders and farmers participating in countryside stewardship schemes who have trees they wish to rejuvenate or who require unusual varieties of apples and pears. Apples and pears are generally out-crossing so that any trees you grow from seed, will not bear fruit that is true to type. This is not necessarily a bad thing. Most of the 6000 plus apple and pear varieties worldwide have resulted from deliberate or natural crossings but if you need a particular variety or want to plant a large orchard of the same kind you must use vegetative means of propagation. This usually means grafting a shoot onto a rootstock and, although this can be done at home, it is a skillful operation and most people are happy for a nurseryman to do this for them.

Choosing the right rootstock

- Varieties grafted onto different rootstocks will eventually result in trees of different sizes. It is therefore very important to choose the right rootstock for your situation.
- For traditional orchards choose M25 and MM111 for apples and *Pyrus communis* or pyrodwarf for pears. These are usually the only rootstocks that grant-aided schemes will accept.
- In a large garden select MM106 for bush apples. Choose M26 for small apple bushes, cordons and espaliers but use MM106 for large espaliers.

What to do

Contact me as soon as you can to ensure that I have enough rootstocks in stock. In January, cut off several disease-free, pencil-thick pieces of the previous season's growth. These 'scions' should be at least 6" (150mm) long. I can graft thinner and shorter pieces but the chances of success are reduced. Put these 'scions' in a polythene bag and send them as soon as possible – keep them refrigerated in the meantime.

Let me know how many trees you want of each variety and on what rootstock. There are always failures, so I have to do at least one extra to ensure that I can meet your order. Please make sure you send me enough graft wood. Your young trees should be ready for planting in November of the same year.

Graftwood can be sent to us in the post or dropped off (address at the top of this sheet). Special grafts are £22 for each tree required and we do ask for a £5 deposit per tree. Please contact us before sending graftwood to ensure we are looking out for it to be delivered and that we have the rootstocks available.