

# APPLEWISE FRUIT TREES

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<http://www.applewise.co.uk>

## Grafting Service

### Introduction

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.

Rootstock	final tree height	trunk height	planting distance	permanent staking	management	situation
<i>Apples:</i>						
M25	25'	6'	25-30'	No	grazing or mowing	traditional field orchard
MM111	20'	4½'	20'			
M26	8-10'	3'	10'	Yes	keep clear of vegetation	small garden, cordon etc
M9	6-8'	2½'	10'			
<i>Pears:</i>						
Seedling pear	30'	6-8'	30-40'	No	grazing	traditional field orchard
pyrodwarf	15-20'	4½'	20'			
Quince A	12-15'	3'	15'	No	mowing	paddock or garden
Quince C	10-12'	3'	12'	yes		

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 4" (100mm) long. I can graft thinner and shorter pieces but the chances of success are reduced. At a pinch, I can graft using 2-year-old wood but the buds must be small and vegetative, without large fruit buds. Put these 'scions' in a polythene bag and send them to me together with a £5 deposit payable to P. Davis.

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.

## **Collecting your order**

The trees will be in pots so it is best to collect them directly from the nursery if you can. However, if I have other customers in your area, I can often deliver within 100 miles at shared cost. As a last resort, trees can be sent by post but I have to shake them out of their pots to reduce weight.

## **Prices**

The price for apples and pears is £15 but I'm afraid I can't graft plums and cherries. If you need a special named variety, I will have to make a further charge for graft wood. Don't forget to send a £5 deposit for each variety with your order

## **How to find us**

About 2 miles west of Llandeilo on the A40 towards Carmarthen is a pub called the Cottage Inn. 100 yds past this pub, on the right-hand side, is a minor road signposted to Capel Isaac. Follow this road for 2 miles until you reach a long straight stretch of road. We are at the end of this on the right-hand side opposite Maesteilo Care Home, just before the village.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Andrew and Liz Hargreaves*

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