

NEWS

GARDENING JOY

Get hooked on plant grafting

So now that we are into August and reaping the benefits of all that spring work, why not consider doing some bud grafting on your fruit trees, roses and ornamentals.

It's definitely loads of fun. I often wonder whom the first person was to take a piece of one plant and attach it onto another.

What purpose would he or she have had in doing it? Perhaps it was an accident; after all there are



FROM THE GROUND UP

Don Burnett

several instances in nature where roots and branches have attached themselves to each other without human help.

Whatever the purpose and whatever the

situation, after that first successful attempt was made, there is no doubt in my mind the excitement then is no different today for me when I manage a good graft in my garden.

Grafting plays a major role in the nursery industry.

Even though there has been an increase in other forms of propagation such as tissue culture and vegetative cuttings, it is still the most widely used practice.

It's common to see ornamentals such as Hakuro Nishiki willows, cotoneaster and interesting conifers grafted onto a stem creating what is known in the industry as a "standard" form.

One of my favourites is the PG Hydrangea.

For the most part these top grafted plants are used as focal points in landscape beds and are meant to stand-alone surrounded by plants that compliment them.

Most roses, ornamental trees and fruit trees are grafted. The reason we don't just plant an apple seed or any other seed to get a new tree of the same species and variety is because we just can't count on it being the same.

However if we graft a piece of a known var-

iety onto a wild root stock of the same species the resulting tree will be the same every time.

While the home gardener can have such fun grafting various trees and shrubs, there is a fair amount of mystique when it comes to this craft, and for sure a lot of misunderstanding of what can and can't be done.

August is the time to do some bud grafting. I find this easier than scion grafting, which is done in the spring. There are two methods used, one is "T" budding and the other is "Chip" budding.

I prefer using the T budding method on roses and chip budding on fruit trees and ornamentals.

A few years ago, I planted a Golden Jubilee peach tree in my back yard. Not having the room for more than one tree, I started to bud graft other varieties onto it.

I now have a tree with four varieties of peaches, a nectarine and even an almond. I don't think there is anything more enjoyable to do in the garden than budding another variety onto a recipient tree and have it take.

Once you succeed in your first graft you will be hooked.

don@thegardenexpert.com

Safety message starts early

My 10-year-old daughter, Morgan, "made the news" thanks to her columnist father using her stick-whittling finger injury due to a very sharp pocket knife to make a point about parental liability.

A sharp knife in the hands of an unsupervised child is a problem because children don't have the life experience necessary to appreciate risk and consequences.

So we, the parents, supervise to ensure that there is a level of care that meets up with the risk and consequences. We do that until a child matures to the point of gaining their own appreciation.

Children crossing the street is an example. Unsupervised small children would dart into a street having no regard for the risk that a car could unexpectedly show up and mow them down with very serious consequences.

Parents hold hands and continually harp about the risks until our children gradually mature to the point of cautiously looking both ways before crossing.

Sometimes we forget how completely clueless children can be about risk and consequences. The "crossing the road thing"



ACHIEVING JUSTICE

Paul Hergott

is obvious, but the level of cluelessness that can arise in other circumstances can be less obvious.

I am reminded of the look of shock and horror on my mother's face. We were holidaying at Niagara Falls and I had hopped over a barrier fence to get around a throng of other tourists.

The barrier separated us tourists from a cliff. In my inexperienced mind of a youngster who didn't appreciate risk and consequences, it didn't seem dangerous at all to me to run along the top of the cliff for a short spell.

Morgan had the benefit of a similar look of shock and horror last week, during another camping trip.

We were camping at Deception Pass State Park in Washington State, a beautiful park on the coast of the Pacific Ocean.

Morgan was playing with another brilliant Christmas gift, a flint and steel kit. She sat in the dirt strike, strike, striking

the thing making pathetic little sparks to light bits of paper towel arranged on a flat piece of firewood.

There was no way she was going to succeed. Her spirit was strong, though, so away she continued.

I finally decided to show her how it's done.

Strike, strike, strike. Nothing happening, beads of sweat starting to form.

"Daddy, why are you so pathetic" were the words I figured might be going through her mind.

I finally figured out how to scrape up enough magnesium flakes for ignition and we got a moment or two of flame. I then left the pile of flakes in Morgan's hands to see if she could make her own moment or two of flame.

She was better at it than I expected she would be. The look of horror came when Morgan approached me from the bush, sporting a look of casual concern, pointing to the wisp of smoke coming from the underbrush at the base of a Douglas fir.

The darling had managed to make a little flame with paper towel and decided to bring the little fire with her for a wander into the bush. It slipped off the piece of firewood.

I leapt into action, though it turned out the wisp of smoke wouldn't have amounted to anything anyway. But how's that for a lack of insight into risk and consequences?

Now I turn preacher. It is my experience as a personal injury lawyer that gives me an appreciation that the travelling public does not have about the risk and consequences of driving without paying full attention to the road.

The regular stream of misleading media reports, of "no injuries" or "minor injuries" based only on the lack of symptoms at the scene of a collision leads the travelling public into less and less appreciation of risks and consequences.

As a personal injury lawyer I see what happens the next day, and sometimes for the rest of a collision victim's life.

I wish I could be there to supervise everyone behind the wheel who day dreams, talks on a cell phone (hand held or hands free), or does other distracting behaviour.

I can't be, so I will "continually harp" so long as there are newspapers or websites who will publish my preaching.

All-Activity
 MASSAGE THERAPY AND HEALTH CENTRE
 NEW PATIENTS WELCOME

• Relaxation or Deep Tissue Treatment
 • Headaches
 • Neck & Back Pain
 • Work Injuries
 • Motor Vehicle Accident Injuries
 ICBC

\$20 Discount for the month of August on initial massage therapy visit only. (excludes ICBC/WCB insurance claims)
 Serving Since 1992

250.861.9499 | www.allactivity.ca
 104 - 3001 Tuft St., Kelowna, BC

watering SOLUTIONS
 NOW MON-FRI 7:30-4:30 CLOSED SAT.-SUN.

RAISED GARDEN BEDS

Frame It All offers an elegant, attractive solution to building raised vegetable gardens or sandboxes with an easy do-it-yourself product that is safe, durable, and attractive.

Why Buy a Frame It All Raised Garden Bed - Easy to install, all-season durable and attractive in any yard, the Frame It All system is changing the way raised bed vegetable gardens are being built. Gone are the tattered, rotting wood frames or hulking ugly railroad ties that overpower the aesthetics of your yard. And with the simple assembly of Frame It All you won't waste hours measuring lumber, aligning seams and measuring angles.

If you've invested time and money into landscaping your yard, the idea of a large, bright blue plastic sandbox sitting in the middle of it may be unappealing. Frame It All offers an elegant, attractive solution to ugly sandboxes with an easy do-it-yourself sandbox that is safe, durable, easy to build and maintain and attractive. Once your child has outgrown the sandbox, you can simply convert it to a raised garden bed or flower box.

Please drop in to see us or visit www.frameitall.com for more information
 Bring in this article for 25% off

van-keel
 Everything you need for irrigation

1519 Keehn Road • 250-762-3180

Your Okanagan. Your News.

Wesla & Duane
 Your Weather Team

Global OKANAGAN Shaw GlobalNews.ca