

TRANSCRIPT TO GO WITH VIDEO: Grafting passionfruit on #187160 under Grower advice

Well what we're going to do is take some cuttings from the vines you got growing in the field, take them back to the grafting place and do some grafting. Now you want to select vigorous tips of the vine runners, take them off, put them in a bucket of water so they don't dry out and take enough for the work that you are going to do so you don't have to come back again. What we are doing is we're taking cuttings that are long enough and when we get back to do the grafting we'll trim them up to the correct size when we do the grafting.

The grafting we're going to do is called a wedge graft, where this is the rootstock which is cut off 20 to 30 centimetres above the top of the pot. And you make a cut down the rootstock like that, and here's the tip of the passionfruit that's going to be grafted on, and on that you make a wedge cut, which goes inside the cut that you've made in the rootstock. You end up with a union similar to that.

This is a seedling flavocarpa, which we are going to graft our desired passionfruit variety onto. This is about 10 to 11 weeks from sowing the seed to reaching grafting size. Now we want to place the graft 20 to 30 centimetres above the top of the pot. That's to prevent when you plant this plant into the field if the plant soil, contaminated soil, from splashing up onto the graft union.

So we select a place 20 to 30 centimetres up on the stock, just below a node. We'll take the top off completely and we'll use our scalpel or you can use things like razor blades, whatever. Just a sharp implement, just remember these things are very sharp. Now on the rootstock we'll make a vertical cut down about one and a half to two centimetres down the centre of the stock. And now we'll prepare the scion to go onto the rootstock.

Now here are the tips that we collected from the field of the desired passionfruit that we want to go onto the top of the rootstock. Now it is important to make sure that the tip to go onto the rootstock is at about the same width as the rootstock is. So the tip going on is at the same diameter as the rootstock is.

So we select that there, we'll trim that back. And we also remove quite a bit of the leaf that's on the tip to be grafted. Now that's to prevent that from drying out while the graft is taking.

Now this is what we call a wedge graft so we've made a cut down the rootstock and now we're going to make a wedge on the tip to go onto the rootstock. You can see there, that's a wedge been formed there by cutting down one side then cutting down the other. Now that goes into the rootstock like that. Push it down and see how that is a nice fit. Now we take one of these little grafting clips to hold the graft in place. That goes over that like that, and that's done.

Then we put a stake in there to hold the plant upright. Tie it on there. Now we'd leave that plant in a sheltered position out of the wind with some gentle misting for about two weeks until that graft actually takes and then it's ready to go into the field.