

cambium layer of stock and scion are joined at some point. Budding is so easy and simple that everyone interested in horticulture should learn at once how to do it. Grafting should be done in early spring as soon as the sap starts briskly, but have scions dormant, or cut before that time, and kept in a cool, dry place. In that way, the buds on scions will be plump, but not advanced beyond the normal dormant or winter stage. Do not have scion cut more than four buds long. Be careful to seal up well with wax, leaving no place for moisture to get in or out and putting a little wax on the tip of the scion to stop evaporation.

It is better not to cut off the whole head of a young tree at once, as if it is very thrifty the flow of sap may be so strong that the scion will be drowned out. Better take about half of the head at a time.

Budding gives you two chances of propagation the same season. That is, if your scion fails to grow you can put a bud in during July, or perhaps early in August. So long as there is growth enough left in the stock for bud to unite, say three or four weeks, it is sufficient. Of course, the scions are cut from one year old wood of previous season growth, and the buds are from the same season's wood as when put in.

## 10.

### THINNING

The essential reasons for thinning are getting better understood each year. One of these reasons is its aid in getting a more even grade of fruit and obtaining all, or nearly all, No. 1 fruit. Few fruit-growers realize just how much a tree is injured for future usefulness by allowing it to overload year after year.

It is the ripening of the pips, or seed, in each apple, that is hardest on the tree. And when you consider that a small apple has practically as much seed as a large one, it is easy to see how useless, as well as unprofitable, it is to grow a lot of small apples which are more or less unmarketable.