

BUDDING.

Budding differs from grafting in several respects, and for some purposes is preferred to the latter. The proper season for budding is when the leaves are fully formed and at a time when the bark can easily be lifted by the aid of the budding knife, say from the beginning of July until the end of August, or thereabouts. An ordinary sharp knife may be used, but one made for the purpose is preferable, as the handle is so constructed that it can be used for lifting the bark.

Buds should be taken from good, healthy, well-grown stocks of the same season. The wood should be well matured, not too young, and the buds, one of which is at the base of each leaf, nice and plump. Having selected your scion or stick, as it is called, cut off the leaves, leaving the leaf stalk, and proceed by making a transverse incision in the bark, preferably on the northern side of the stock, generally as near the ground as convenient. From that incision make another one downward an inch or an inch and a half long, and with the handle of the knife raise the bark on both sides of the downward incision. Then (it being necessary that the knife is very sharp) cut a thin, smooth slice of the wood from the stick, an inch or more long, so that the bud will be about the middle (*See Figure 9*). Insert this slice, holding it by the leaf stock in the incision, and push it downward to nearly its whole length, cutting off the top to fit the transverse cut in the stock; then bind round with matting or cotton strips not very tightly, beginning at the bottom, leaving the bud exposed and finishing at the top. After a short time you will be pretty well able to judge whether the bud has taken, by touching the leaf stalk. If it falls off you may be pretty certain that all is going on well, and in a fortnight or so, if the bud looks healthy and plump, the bandage should be loosened and eventually removed altogether. About the time in the spring that the buds begin to swell cut off the stock a little above the bud, some three inches or so. The portion of the stock serves as a support to the bud as it starts to grow, and to which it should be tied until such time as it has attained sufficient strength, when the support should be cut away quite near the bud in a sloping direction. Suckers and shoots below the bud should, of course, be removed as they appear.