

Cider Nursery Basics

Common Terms:

- Bechgraft – dormant graft of rootstock/scion
- Budwood – current year growth used for propagation
- Chip budding – bud of desired cultivar attached to rootstock
- Sleeping eye – rootstock with dormant bud of desired cultivar
- Whips – year old grafted trees
- Scion – last year’s growth of desired cultivar
- Rootstock – plant onto which the desired cultivar is grafted
- Cultivar – desired variety

Nursery Timelines:

Plan your planting at least two years ahead. If you order custom trees today, most likely they would be available spring 2018. Nurseries need to order rootstock a year in advance and it takes a year to produce whips/sleeping eyes.

Example:

- Early 2016: order rootstock
- Late 2016: make cultivar selections
- Early 2017: Grafting
- 2017: Grow out
- Late 2017-early 2018 Harvest

Two periods of time each year for tree propagation,

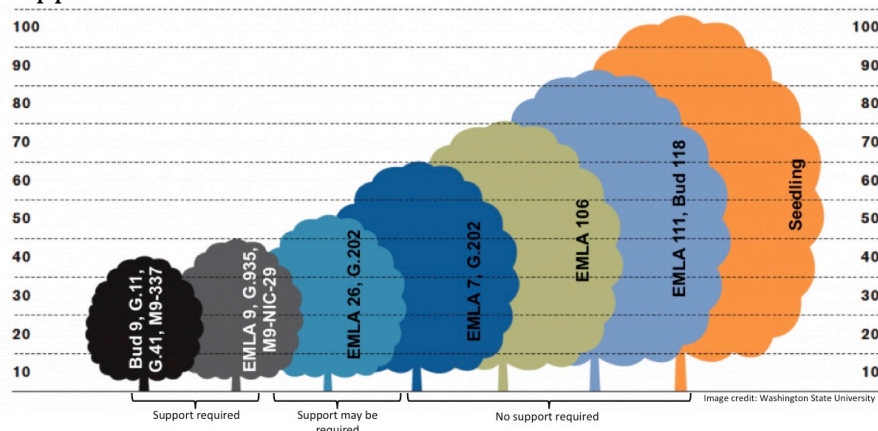
1. December-April for benchgrafting
2. Late summer for chip budding.

Rootstock harvest between December and January.

Bare root trees available between ~December and March.

Rootstocks:

There are many size controlling apple rootstocks to choose from (see chart below). Your intended management system (high vs. low density) will be a starting point for rootstock selection. Higher density systems require more dwarfing stock, which will need support for the life of the tree.



Questions? Contact Galen at Bull Run Cider
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Cost:

Typical range is \$5-\$15/tree depending on quantity, age etc. Costs can be reduced by bringing production in house (sourcing rootstock, scion, grafting etc.).

Cider Nursery Resources:

- Big Horse Creek Farm, NC
- Bringer Nursery, WA
- Bull Run Cider, OR
- Cider Babies Nursery, OR
- Cloud Mountain Farm and Nursery, WA
- Cummins Nursery, NY
- Dave Wilson Nursery, CA
- Fedco, ME
- Greenmantle Nursery, CA
- Heritage Cider Supply, WA
- Hostetler Farms, IN
- Trees of Antiquity, CA
- Raintree Nursery, WA
- Vintage Virginia Apples, VA