

integrated management of *Marchantia* and *Sagina* infestations. WORT is presently a "closed" list; this means that new members can join only by request sent to the list owner. If you wish to participate, send your e-mail address to <svnen.e.svenson@orst.edu> with a request to be added to the discussion list.

Grafting Tips®

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Knife Sharpening. I use a Diamond Whetstone medium grade. These stones are available from Western Tool Supply. There are industrial-grade diamonds imbedded in steel which is then laminated to a plastic base. These stones cut into the knife blade very quickly requiring a minimum number of strokes to make a sharp knife.

These stones do not wear down like a carborundum stone so that the surface always stays flat, which will insure that the knife blade will stay with a straight cutting edge. The knife blade should be at a 2° angle to the stone and pushed as if you were cutting into the stone. For more detailed information check the Boy Scout Manuel on knife sharpening.

A Cheap Good Grafting Wax. We use a deep fat cooker (Presto Brand) to heat our grafting wax. We can control the wax temperature easily to about 150 to 160°F. I like a thin wax coating because it sticks better to the graft union. The wax formulae is ½ paraffin, ½ bees wax, and a bit of pine tar. Pine tar is available from any farm store that sells horse supplies. Horse owners use it for wounds on their horses. It makes the wax more sticky and black. The bees wax and pine tar help to lower the melting temperature of the paraffin. Works for us.

Use of Floratape for Wrapping Grafts. We usually cut the rubber budding strips from the graft after it has healed. In order to protect the graft further we wrap it with white floral tape. This tape biodegrades and does not cut into the plant stem. It also stretches with the stem growth and cambium grows well under the tape. Works for us.