

Chestnut Grafting Supplies

Knives

The most important character of a grafting knife is that it be sharp – very sharp. As sharp as a razor blade! Some grafters prefer a straight blade (not curved), though both are available. True grafting knives are beveled on only one edge. They come in “left-handed” and “right-handed” versions. If you are right handed, you will likely prefer a right-handed knife. Stainless steel holds an edge very well and won’t rust, but can be difficult (or impossible) to re-sharpen. A softer steel blade can be re-sharpened easily (by a skilled hand).

Folding knives are great in the field (because you can put them in your pocket if you fold them). Fixed-blades work fine at the bench. Budding knives are similar to grafting knives, but have an extra implement: the bark lifter! Sometimes the bark-lifter is on the back (top) of the knife blade itself, and sometimes it’s a separate tool that folds into the other end of the knife handle.

Here are some favorite brands of chestnut grafters:

Tina (German)

Due Buoi (Italian)

Victorinox (Swiss) – hard to sharpen, best to replace when dull

Additional Grafting Supplies

Grafting tape - parafilm, “tough” perforated parafilm, etc.

Grafting wax

Labels/tags – metal write-on, vinyl

Marker, pen, or pencil (depending on label/tag type)

Bamboo stakes (not for workshop, but will need)

Band-Aids!

Sharpening Tools

Whetstone – generally get the best you can afford

Strop