

nursery stock of the desired variety. Where the block records are accurate and where the practice of obtaining new budding material from bearing trees frequently is followed this practice is not as bad as it would at first appear. A certain number of off-type trees will appear but they will also appear in blocks budded from bearing trees.

For convenience in budding, the budwood is usually cut into pieces from 8 to 12 inches long, each piece carrying several buds. The budwood should be of good normal growth, well rounded out and hardened up sufficiently to handle well. As soon as the budwood is cut from the tree it should be defoliated by cutting the leaves off with a knife or pruning shears, leaving a piece of the petiole attached to the wood. Where it is necessary to hold the budwood until a later time for budding, the sticks can be stored in cypress sawdust or in damp sphagnum moss in a cool place. If stored in sawdust it will be necessary to repack occasionally.

A knife having a blade of the very finest steel and with a rounded end is necessary. The blade should be comparable to razor steel and carefully ground and honed to a smooth, thin edge. Many very careful workers prefer to finish sharpening the knife with a strop similar to a razor strop. Unless the knife is of very fine quality and very carefully sharpened, it is impossible to make smooth cuts and to open up the bark without leaving loose shreds and other material to interfere with the insertion of the bud. Standard budding knives are commonly made with a bone handle with a flat, wedged end for opening up the bark where necessary, but the handle is never used by specialists in budding.

Budding tape for wrapping the buds is made from thin bleached muslin put up in rolls 6 to 8 inches long and 1 to 2 inches in diameter. These are impregnated with a grafting wax that will not harden. There are a large number of formulae for the wax preparation but the one below, taken from Hume's "Cultivation of Citrus Fruits", is considered very satisfactory for use under Florida conditions: Resin, 1 pound; beeswax, 4 pounds; raw pine gum, 3 tablespoonfuls.

The grafting wax is heated over the fire until melted and the rolls are immersed in it until thoroughly impregnated. The wax must not be too hot during this procedure. If the rolls of cloth are too large the wax will not penetrate readily and the diameter, therefore, should be kept below 2 inches. To secure better pene-