

centage of clay. This soil should be kept moist during dry weather. If the tree is still vigorous it will in time put out roots above the girdle and eventually develop a new root system sufficient to support the tree. This same system can be used in putting a tree on its own root if the rootstock on which it is budded is not congenial. In doing this the trunk is partially girdled at the bud union and soil is packed around it until a new root system forms. Fig. 29 shows a small tree treated in this way with the resultant development of a root system.

Good sized roots of most species of citrus if cut off and the cut end pulled to the surface of the soil will start a top and occasionally trees are produced in this way. This procedure has had no commercial application but may be used under special conditions.



Fig. 29.—Young tree put on its own roots by being girdled and having soil packed around the trunk.

TRANSPLANTING LARGE CITRUS TREES

Large citrus trees can be transplanted very easily if the proper precautions are taken, and there is practically no danger of failure. The trees should be dug with as little damage to the root system as possible. The amount of root system to be transplanted will depend upon the facilities for moving the trees. As soon as the tree is dug the roots should be protected from drying out by wet burlap or other covering and kept protected until planted. The new hole should be large enough to easily contain the entire root system and should be dug just before the tree is planted so that it will not have a chance to dry out. If possible the surface soil and subsoil should be kept separate and some well decomposed compost and ground steamed bone meal should be added to the soil as the tree is planted. Injured roots should be pruned off. The soil should be placed about the roots so as to leave them in normal position and not bunched up. Water