

# Training in Propagation

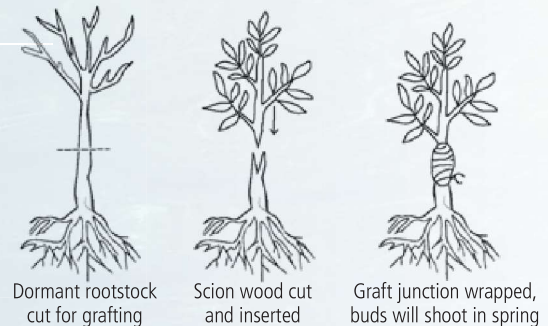
Most fruit trees don't grow from seeds! All the best apples, peaches, mangoes, and breadfruit of course, are not propagated from seeds. Most breadfruit varieties have no seeds at all! The botanists explain this phenomenon with the odd number of chromosomes and the many possible genes that could express.

So then how can we get more trees? Our farmers use various propagation methods:

## Grafting (basic cleft or v-graft)

A twig (a "scion" or "bud") is physically attached to root stock. Various techniques ensure close contact so that the scion gets nutrition from the mother tree. Mangoes are relatively easy to graft.

**Advantages:** fast fruit production

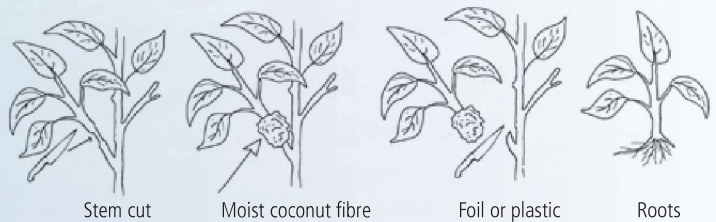


## Stem culture (including air layering)

A healthy branch is bruised, wrapped in moist peat moss or coconut fibre, and left on the mother tree for a few weeks. Roots form and the branch can be planted as a new tree.

**Advantages:** good chance of success

**Disadvantages:** labor intensive, roots may not be as strong

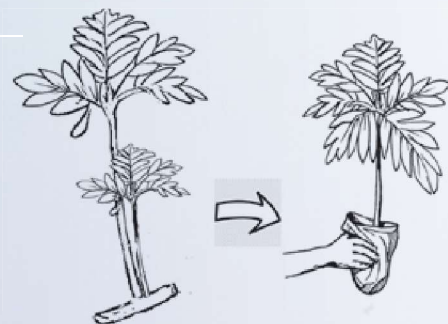


## Root culture

A short segment of root from a healthy tree is planted in a sand bed and kept moist. After a few weeks leaves emerge.

**Advantages:** strong roots, large numbers

**Disadvantages:** works best in humid climates; somewhat of an art form



## Tissue culture

Germplasm from healthy plants is propagated in a chemical bath.

**Advantages:** Large volumes can be produced

**Disadvantages:** Needs a sterile lab environment; tends to be expensive

