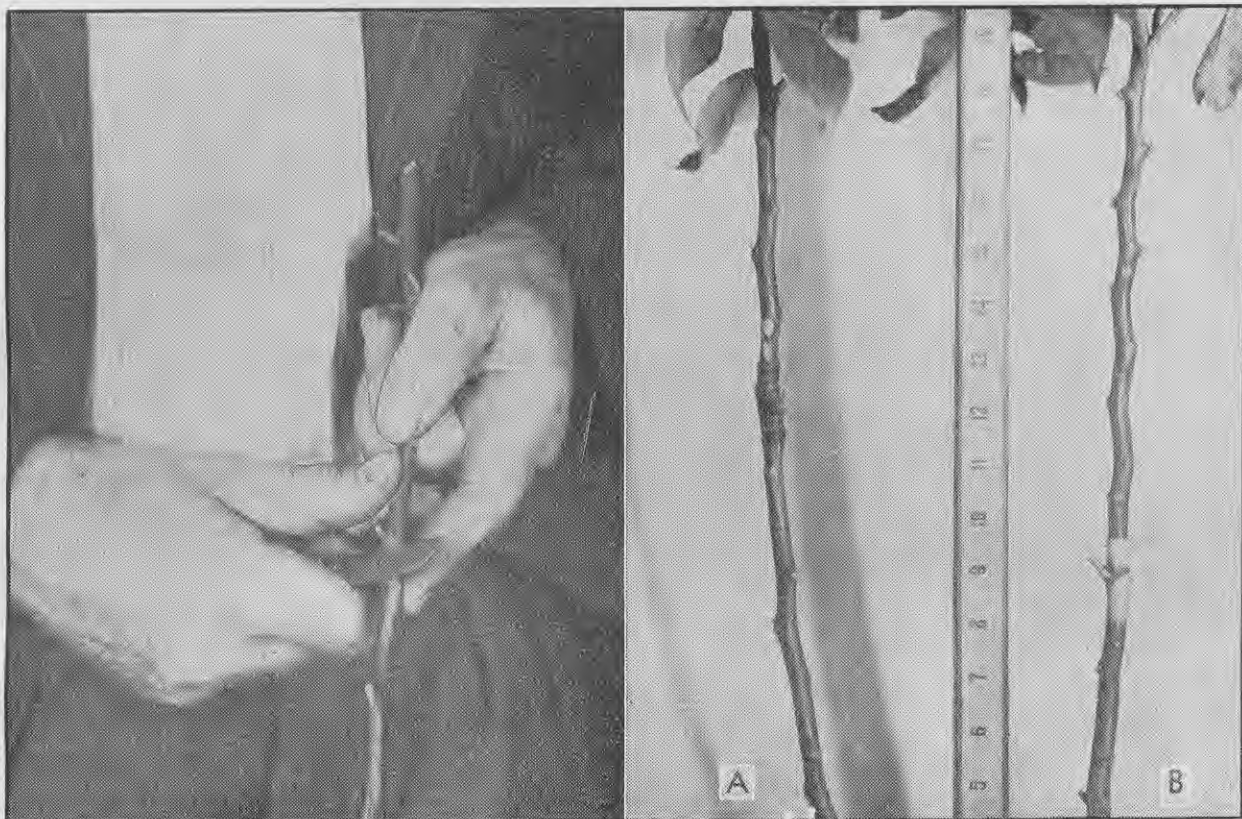


BUDDING OF CITRUS TREES



Left—Cutting a bud shield from the stick. Right—Budding operations completed. A, a lemon bud firmly held by a rubber strip; B, an orange bud tied with raffia.

The buds of sweet orange and grapefruit should be inserted at least 9in. above the ground; for standard lemons at least 12in. is advisable. To avoid interference with the operation, clearing the stocks of all leaves and shoots up to a little above the point of budding is a good practice.

Inserting the Bud

Budding must be done neatly and quickly to prevent drying out of the bud shield, and always with the utmost care to avoid damaging the bud. Inserting the bud on the shaded side of the stock is best.

With a sharp knife, an upright incision about 1in. long and the depth of the bark is made in the stock; across the top of this and at right

angles to it a second cut $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long is made, forming a letter T. With the point of the knife or the shaped end of a proper budding knife the edges of the upright cut are opened out for about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from the top, baring the white under surface (cambium layer) and allowing for the entry of the bud shield.

the stock, and slid gently down until it fits snugly into position.

The operation is completed by tying with suitable material such as raffia, specially-prepared budding tape, or strips of rubber, starting the tie at the bottom. The tie should be firm to exclude air and moisture, but the bud must not be covered.

RULES FOR BUDDING

Use budwood only from specially-selected, proven trees.

Carry out all operations with speed and precision.

Take particular care with tying to exclude air and moisture.

Treatment After Budding

The buds should be examined 2 or 3 weeks after budding and the ties loosened or cut on the opposite side to the bud to avoid restriction of the flow of sap. If budding tape or rubber strips have been used, they may be left unattended longer.

During this inspection it may be found that some buds have failed to "take"; the petiole will probably have shrivelled and turned brown but still be adhering to the shield. If the stock is still in a suitable condition, another bud may be inserted higher or lower.

Buds that are healthy and growing can be recognised by their green appearance. If the petiole is still attached, it will be pale and will drop off at the slightest touch.

WEEDS

Weeds, their means of dispersal, and cost and methods of control are dealt with in Bulletin 202, "Weeds," which is available free from offices of the Department of Agriculture. Much farm land has deteriorated through lack of control of weeds, and this bulletin contains invaluable information on the recognition of weeds and their properties.

In taking a bud the bud-stick is held with the upper end toward the operator and the shield shaved off by a slicing motion of the knife, starting $\frac{1}{2}$ in. below the bud and finishing the same distance above. The bud can be prevented from falling by holding it on the blade with the thumb. The bud is handled by the small piece of leaf petiole which was left on, inserted right way up in the incision in