

Rose Budding with T-Bud Technique

Bruce Frost

Bear Creek Production Co., P.O. Box 280, Wasco, California 93280

PRE-BUDDING CARE

A pre-plant fertilizer (8-8-8 at 30 gal per acre) is shanked (drilled) in on both sides of where the hardwood cuttings are planted in November. The cuttings are kept watered on a weekly basis until budding time in early April. By then we have 12 in. or more shoot growth and good root development.

BUDDING

The budwood is cut in November and stored at 30F until spring. We use the T-bud technique with a rubber strip 5 in. × 9/32 in. × 0.016 in. tied two wraps below the bud and three above. The bud is cut with a small portion of wood left behind it. The budders and tiers use 4-wheeled carts to position themselves for budding 2 in. above the ground. The budder/tier teams can bud and tie approximately 4000 plants per 8-h day.

POST-BUDDING CARE

The rootstock is kept actively growing before, during, and after budding to keep the bark slipping and to facilitate healing of the callus. Within 10 days the bud is well connected. Thirty days after budding we fertilize with 8N-8P₂O₅-8K₂O at 85 gal per acre. Forty days after budding we break the top over by cutting partially through the cane 1 in. above the bud and pushing the top over. The top acts as a nurse limb while the bud shoot is forced to start growing. The bud shoot is called a maiden and is allowed to grow along with the broken top, until January when the top is removed and the maiden is cut back to 1/2 in. The bush is grown for another year.