

## GRAFTING CERTAIN CLIMBING PLANTS

TOM ALLEN

*James Coles & Sons, Thurnby, Leics.*

### CLEMATIS

**Stocks.** One can produce one's own or buy them in. If the latter, order them early the year before, in June or July. Stock plants should be set aside early and potted on into large pots around Christmas time and placed in a warm house, 50 to 60°F. The first scions should be ready in February.

**Method: Side Graft.** Plants then potted on into 2-1/2" pots and placed in closed cases, at a temperature of 70-75°F. Benlate is widely used on all clematis crops in order to combat *Botrytis* and, on growing plants, for mildew; application is every two weeks. Grafted plants should start to grow within the next month. They are removed from the case when buds are 1/8" high and placed on an open bench. They are staked with 12" splits when ready and moved into a cooler house. They should be ready for potting by the end of May/early June and will make good plants in flower by the middle to end of August.

### PARTHENOCISSUS TRICUSPIDATA 'VEITCHII'

**Stocks.** Bought or grown from hardwood cuttings. *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* stocks are lifted as required. Scions are also gathered as required.

**Grafting.** This starts early in January. A side or cleft graft is used. Grafted plants are potted into 2-1/2" pots and then into a closed case, bottom heat: 70 to 75°F. Root action is very quick. Callus soon forms on top of the stocks and the buds soon start to swell. When runners start the plants can be removed to an open bench. We have found it good policy to stake the plants as soon as the runners are about 6" long. Plants are potted into selling pots in June and will make good size for selling by August.

### PROPAGATION OF ACER PLATANOIDES WALDERSII

IVAN R. DICKINGS

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This cultivar is similar to *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum' with young leaves opening out to a shrimp pink but more lacey in appearance. The leaves then turn to a creamy white, veined and speckled with green.

**Preparation.** Established pot grown stocks of *Acer platanoides* are brought into a cool, airy house 4 to 6 weeks prior to grafting. When they are suitably dried off, grafting can commence which takes place in late January.

**Operation.** The stocks are cut back to within 2" to 3" of the soil. The type of graft used is a side whip and is tied with thin rubber strips. The scion wood used is 6" long terminal shoots.

**Aftercare.** When grafted, the plants are plunged into moist peat with the union covered in a closed case with 65°F bottom heat. In about three weeks callus is visible and top growth begins. At this stage air is gradually applied and watering can take place. After hardening off, the plants are stood on an open shaded bench and, when weather permits, the plants are planted into a cold frame.

## **TOP GRAFTING OF *ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS* 'BRILLIANTISSIMUM'**

LESLIE MORGAN

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Southwell, Notts.

In 1975 I was asked to produce a small quantity of *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum' trees by the management for their retail outlet.

**Understocks.** I had no potted *Acer pseudoplatanus* understocks available at the time so I had to use three-year-old seedlings dug straight from the field, prior to grafting.

**Scion Material.** My scion material was in short supply, mainly because this tree had always been bought in before. I had one 10-year-old tree available at the nursery and had also found a much older specimen in a nearby village. The scion material was one-year-old wood and it was treated in two different ways. Material off the young plant was cut in mid-winter and heeled-in in peat and sand in an outside open frame. Material off the older plant was cut just before grafting.

**Grafting Procedure.** I grafted *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum' in mid-February. The method I used was the splice graft. This is a very simple graft — just like the whip and tongue without the tongue. First the understock was dug and then brought under cover, all side shoots were trimmed up and then the stocks were cut off at the appropriate grafting height. They were then grafted with 15 cm scions. These were tied in with Rapidex ties. The resulting grafts were not waxed, but were covered with a 20 cm square clear polythene bag. This was tied with another Rapidex tie. The resulting grafted trees