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Effects of Stock-scion Combination and Timing of Grafting on Successful Union, Rooting and Growth of Blueberry Grafts by Grafted Cutting

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Abstract

Inter- and intraspecific blueberry grafting by grafted cutting was conducted to determine the effects of stock-scion combination and timing of grafting on successful union, rooting and growth of grafts.

1. In a trial grafting highbush cultivar 'Berkeley' scions on to four different rootstocks, rabbiteye cultivars 'Homebell' and 'Woodard' and highbush cultivars 'Jersey' and 'Spartan', successful union was greater than 70%. However, grafting 'Spartan' scions on to 'Spartan' rootstocks gave only 37% successful union. Among tested combinations, the rate of rooting was significantly higher in 'Jersey' rootstock, and the length of current shoots was significantly shorter in 'Woodard' rootstock. Current shoots of all tested stock-scion combinations terminated until late April and resprouted from mid May.

2. Although the rate of rooting was low for the combination of highbush cultivar 'Spartan' scions grafted on to rabbiteye cultivar 'Homebell', the storage period after grafting and the time of cutting back of rootstock base influenced the rate of successful union : grafts grafted in mid January with cutting back of rootstock base, and storage in a refrigerator for 2 months had better rates of successful union than grafts grafted in February and March and storage in a refrigerator for a month and several days, respectively.

In conclusion, all tested combinations except 'Spartan' scions grafted on 'Spartan' were successfully intergrafted by grafted cutting, and the grafts grafted with cutting back of rootstock base in mid January and storage in a refrigerator for 2 months gave the best successful union results.

Key words

[blueberry](#), [grafted cutting](#), [stock-scion combination](#), [timing of grafting](#), [graft](#), [rooting](#), [growth](#)

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