

To collect bud wood:

Collect the largest diameter of this years growth, this is important as last years growth will not take as well. This will be found at the crown of tress or shoots coming up from inside the crown. You can tell it is first year wood because the wood is still tender with no true bark.

- Cut at it's growth point from last year.

- Remove the leaves by cutting close to the stem or pulling off if it will not damage the thin skin. By doing this you reveal the dormant bud that will be used as your chip bud and then become your new tree.

- Label them.

- Collect as close to use date as possible, one or two days before using.

- Wrap in a damp hand towel and store in a plastic bad in the fridge, damp paper towels or new paper will work too. Just don't let them dry out.

- *Note, swollen buds are typically fruiting buds, which are not preferred, the buds that will be revealed from removing the leaves are pressed close to the stem.

Here are some photos to illustrate collecting bud wood.



An apple tree that was pruned (too) heavily this winter has many “watershed” or new growth, this is what you will cut for bud wood.



A close up of what the bud wood looks like



Cut the leaves off, you will see tiny little buds tucked against the stem, these are the buds that will be grafted



What it will look like when finished. Good luck.

On an unpruned, older tree this may be harder to do, the bud wood will probably be at the crown of the tree and hard to reach, or hard to tell where this year's growth is because it has grown so little. Do your best to get this years growth.

-Jamie