

Scion Exchange Guide – Please Read First!

Redwood Empire CRFG

Welcome to the Redwood Empire Chapter of CRFG (California Rare Fruit Growers) scion exchange. CRFG is the largest amateur fruit growing organization in the world, with members in 35 countries. It is dedicated to growing edibles in the home landscape.

Scions: These are located throughout the middle of the auditorium. **These materials must be grafted onto established trees or onto rootstock; they will not grow if just stuck in the ground. You are welcome to take 1-3 scions/variety.** Extra scions will get delivered to the next chapter's exchange, not discarded, so please only take what you will use and leave the rest for others. Each scion can typically yield 1-3 grafts (approximately 1 graft per 2-3 buds). Be advised that some donated scions may be mis-labeled as to variety, or can carry viruses that –when grafted– can infect the entire host tree. You may want to limit the number of grafts placed on a single tree to reduce risk of infection. Reference materials with variety-descriptions are available on tables, and some are marked with balloons. Much more available by Internet online searches.

Cuttings: such as grapes, figs, and kiwis can be planted directly into the ground and can root themselves. You get higher success rates if you scratch the scion with a fork and rub Root-tone or other hormone on it.

Rootstock Sales: Rootstocks are available at a nominal cost. Typically, like-species must be grafted together (ie apple scions onto apple rootstock), though some rootstocks can be used for different types of trees. Apricots, plums, and peaches –for example– may often be grafted onto various rootstocks. If your desired rootstock is not available here, you can also graft onto bareroot trees purchased from any local nursery.

Pruning and Grafting Demonstrations: Announced periodically. See the continuous grafting table too.

Custom grafting: Experts may custom-graft your scions to rootstock for a small fee. See the grafting table or rootstock staff. You can also watch and learn there.

Raffle Tickets: Buy early as there will be frequent drawings throughout the event.

Silent Auction: Write in your bid for these prizes (separate from the raffles). Towards the end of the event, the auction will close and you can claim your prize. There is also a “buy now” option on some.

Hospitality Table: Coffee and tastings (not a full meal!) are free, courtesy of our chapter members.

Questions? Look for any chapter member with a badge or orange vest and they will answer your questions or direct you to a member who might know. Don't be afraid to ask; we're all learning!

Membership: Renewal and new membership available

CRFG membership cost varies according to how you want to receive the excellent *Fruit Gardener* magazine. See www.CRFG.org. Basic membership is \$39 including the magazine. There is no charge for the chapter membership. **To become a member of the Redwood Empire Chapter, you must be a CRFG member.** To join the chapter, notify our listserve manager of your CRFG membership via our website. Chapter events include all chapter activities such as plant sales, garden tours, grafting clinics, plant material exchanges, fruit tastings, use of lending library, and access to our cider press.

More chapter events and info at CRFG-Redwood.org