

Blog Post – Grafting
James Wittmann

Dear New Canaan Land Trust: It is so great working with all the Summer Stewards and Erin, I have learned so much from the past 3 weeks of being a part of this group. One thing that is really interesting is learning about grafting from going to the Arboretum during our first weeks field trip and meeting with Chris and having him further explain it, Grafting is a way of creating variety between trees by Inserting and connecting two different species of tree together and combining them to create a wide spread variety of different effects. Seeing and learning how this can be used to help the environment and help certain trees survive and stay alive when they are threatened was amazing. Grafting or Budding is mainly used around the world for crops and agriculture like fruit trees, but some people use it in different ways, My in depth further research on this topic showed me the great effects that grafting can do like improve a trees survival rate in different environments or if a tree is threatened for example the White Ash Tree there might be a way to Graft a part of that tree to another one that does not have any chance of Harming it in the future. Another example is the Beach Tree, this tree is threatened by something called Beach Leaf Disease, and there might be a way to prevent that from happening by Grafting it to make a "Variant" that is not affected by that disease. These things are a just possibility that may happen in the future although Grafting is only most commonly used on Agricultural Plants/Trees people have made it possible to actually Heal Girdled (the removal of a ring of bark from a trunk) Tree Trunks. Grafting works in a way by creating a bridge of sorts that makes a path for the trees nutrients and water to be transported to the new Grafted on area, It is really amazing how a tree that is on the verge of death can be saved by a simple technique that restores and regrows that entire tree. The future of Grafting is coming and I can guarantee the results of it will be outstanding. This connects back to New Canaan Land trust because of the many trees that we have problems with there can be a solution to fix and improve their life span and make NC a better place As you can see this topic is very interesting and I hope you stay active in the NCLT Program and learn more about this topic.

<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/examples-plant-grafting-46461.html>

<https://www.ugaoo.com/knowledge-center/what-is-grafting-in-plants/>

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/trees/tgen/how-to-fix-girdled-trees.htm>