

Join us for the most anticipated event of the year, our annual scion exchange! This is a great time to add new varieties of stone fruit to your trees, giving you different fruits and extending your harvest times. For those of us with small yards (and even those of you with acreage) a single plum, peach, apricot or most any other tree too often gives far too much fruit in too short a time window to get optimal enjoyment from our labors. With a multi-grafted tree, you can have three or four or as many as you like, smaller crops spaced out throughout the spring and summer.

A few suggestions and rules. First, please do not bring any patented varieties to the exchange. If you are unsure if a particular variety is patented, we will have a list of patent protected fruits at the exchange. Second, please **do not bring any citrus**. With the citrus psyllid and citrus greening disease getting a foothold in Southern California, we do not want to do anything that could inadvertently help spread the disease.

As far as scion wood goes, bring whatever you have! What you might think is a common fruit might be just the thing that someone else is looking for to round out their collection. Scions should ideally be about the length and thickness of a pencil. A bit larger is ok, but anything less than one eighth inch in diameter gets difficult to graft. A flat cut at the bottom and a diagonal cut at the top is nice as it helps the recipient of the wood quickly know which end is up. After cutting your scions, store them in a plastic bag with a slightly damp paper towel in the vegetable bin of your refrigerator. Also remember to label your scions, so that we all know what everyone is supplying.

Finally, remember to bring bags, labeling tape and a marker to mark what you brought home!