



FATALII MEDIA PRESENTS:

GRAFTING CHILE PEPPERS!

PART 1: BASICS OF GRAFTING

GRAFTING CHILE PEPPERS!

THIS IS A VERY FASCINATING THING YOU CAN DO WITH DIFFERENT CHILE PEPPER VARIETIES. YOU CAN EVEN GRAFT CHILE PEPPERS TO A TOMATO OR POTATO PLANT, OR GRAFT ALL OF THEM TOGETHER TO A ONE SINGLE PLANT.



This method makes it possible to have many varieties or even different plants to grow in a single plant! No time consuming hybridizations or breeding. Just graft the plants together and wait for the wounds to heal. Soon the grafted branches start growing and producing different fruits in the same plant! How cool is that?

Let's dive right into it! First choose your plant branch you like to attach to your base plant (which has the root system). Some plants will root more easily when taken cuttings from. Same basic principle applies here. The ones that will root easily, will succeed with grafting too. The base plant will also have an impact on rooting. Plants which will provide a lot of water for the grafted branches, will give much better results faster and more easily. Like tomato for example, can be a great base as it holds a lot of water inside the main stem and branches. Tomatoes also most often have a powerful root system for both fluid & nutrient intake.



1. Select the stem/branch where you want to add your grafted branch and cut it carefully as a straight, horizontal cut. This will be the base plant. You can discard or use the branch elsewhere you just cut.

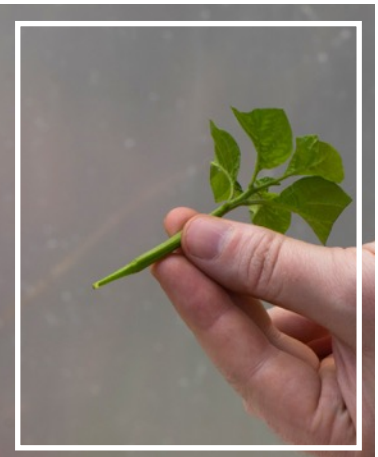
Then prepare your branch to be grafted, by cutting it from the other plant/variety.



2. Remove most of the lower leaves from the new branch you want to attach to the base plant. Just keep around four to eight leaves.



3. Carve the stem so that you will expose as much growing cells as possible.



4. Repeat the previous step on the opposite side and you should have a sharp V-shape ready for the grafting.



5. Let's get back to the stem of the base plant where you want to attach the new branch. Carefully, make a straight cut down, splitting the stem. Make it a little deeper than what the V-shape you made previously will need.



6. Slide the branch with a V-shaped cut into the split of the base plant.



7. At this point you can use a thin plastic wrap to attach two parts together and make the grafting as airtight as possible. Make it just a little tight to hold everything firmly together. Add enough plastic wrap to cover the the grafted area properly. Make sure the grafted branch won't slide back up when you do this.



8. Finally, add some soft wire to keep the wrap intact and to support the branch, so it won't fall off too easily.

At this point you're basically done with the actual process. After trying this with a few more projects, you'll see how easy it really is!

THE END GAME

After a few weeks you can see if the grafting will take. It might still be wilted. Sometimes it'll take more time to succeed and sometimes it won't succeed at all. Always make several grafts at once as it's very easy to do. Some of them will take.



A grafting has succeeded!



First chile pepper (Rocoto) flower growing on a tomato plant.



First Rocoto pods forming on a tomato plant.



Tomatoes and chile peppers on the same plant!

You can maximize the success rate by spraying the leaves of the grafted branches as often as possible. You can also use a lace cloth for added humidity. Wrap the lace cloth around the foliage and spray it wet once in a while. It will keep the moisture on the leaves and humidity all around the foliage of the grafted branch.



With a vigorous root system and stem, it's possible to achieve much faster growth rate and ripening speed. This is the main advantage of grafting. Of course for most people, the funniest part is having several different plants and/or varieties growing on a one single plant. The grafted plants will have their original properties, meaning that you won't get spicy hot tomatoes this way. It's especially fascinating to have potatoes growing on the roots of the plant and tomatoes and chile peppers on the actual plant.

As you might have guessed by now, the possibilities are limitless!

Get the most fascinating chile pepper varieties for this project here:

<http://fataliiseeds.net>