Grafting

Grafting is the process of joining the tissues of plants, so that they continue to grow as one plant.

What would be a reason for grafting?

There are a number of problems. One reason for grafting is to take advantage of one plants roootstock that has desirable qualities. By grafting one plant onto another’s rootstock, which is say, more resistant to drought than that of the original plant, it is possible to make the first plant more resistant to drought, and thus make it stronger. Another is that trees can easily be damaged at or just above the soil line. Grafting can repair such injuries through inarching, which is the process of sowing seedlings of that plant around the injured tree and grafting them above the injury. There are quite a a few others that would take ab arbitrarily long time to list here.

What are the ethical implications?

Certain religious groups are uncomfortable with consuming plant or animal material that has been genetically modified, including fruit that is the result of grafted plants.

What is your personal stance?

Personally, I have nothing against grafting. If someone is uncomfortable with it, then that’s their choice. I wouldn’t interfere. But I’m comfortable with it.

What assumptions are made by your sources?

One of my sources assumes that the reader is familiar with several botany-related terms. Another is impressive in that it makes few, if any assumptions beyond the fact that the reader has a reasonable grasp of the english language.

What are the biases of your sources?

One of them seems to put a great deal of emphasis on the number of scientists and media sources that have noted it (not in the article, but on the ‘about’ page). Another has no notable biases, as it is a state university page intended for use in research.

What are my sources?

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/grafting-and-budding-nursery-crop-plants>

By Ted Bilderback, director, JC Raulston Arboretum and cooperative

extension nursery specialist horticultural science; R. E. Bir; T. G. Ranney

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<http://www.agbioworld.org/biotech-info/religion/galun.html>

By Esra Galun, professor, department of plant sciences, Weizmann Institute of science, Israel

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