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Grow Organic Apples

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Inosculation

Posted by [Mason Colby](#)

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[Mason Colby](#)

[Inosculation](#)

Registered: 1 year ago

Posts: 18

March 15, 2022 04:56AM

Im pruning a wild apple tree which has never been pruned. One medium sized trunk swerves around another making the overall shape sort of magical which I like. At some point they will start to rub and I know it's common practice to choose one because crossing branches are a problem. Would it work, when they start to rub, to cut back to cambium on both limbs, seal and rope the two together so that they become one where they cross?

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 03/15/2022 04:57AM by Mason Colby.

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[Todd Parlo](#)

[Re: Inosculation](#)

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 301

March 15, 2022 07:47PM

Mason, your method can certainly work. Keep in mind what your goal is though. Is one portion independent enough to actually cause rubbing, or just pressure? I often see that trunks or branches are locked in place if they are old enough. What is most important with linking parts is what is happening in the crevice. For instance, in multitrunked trees or those with a rat's nest of branches the issue is that girth growth will cause tearing. When independent branches meet this is rarely the case. Instead, the created cavity between can capture debris and potentially lead to disease. With a higher pressure embrace, and when there is less pocketing on the upper side there usually is not a problem. If the twisting of branches, etc. becomes too tight you may get girdling, but with some degree of locking it also means you don't need to link them with a graft union. Since you use the word "magical" you are likely the kind of person who should be experimenting with cool grafts within the tree anyway. So not necessary, but likely fun.

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