

Art Contest

Enter the art contest to draw Bart the pear tree for one of three prizes - \$125, \$175, or \$350

Contest Rules

To participate, you need to start with the information about my grafting fruit trees, then draw your animated version of what Bart, the pear tree, would look like in the following states:

1. What would Bart look like – *normal* – as just an ordinary pear tree?
2. What would Bart look like – *surprised* – to find an apple scion growing on top of his crown of branches?
3. What would Bart look like – *concerned* – to find an apple scion growing on top of his crown of branches?
4. What would Bart look like – *intrigued* – to find an apple scion growing on top of his crown of branches?
5. What would Bart look like – *scared* – if he was part of an alien experiment?
6. What would Bart look like without leaves – *dormant* (asleep) – in winter?
7. What would Bart look like – *yawning* – waking up in early spring with the apple scion grafted?
8. What would Bart look like – *indifferent* – with pear blossoms and one apple blossom?
9. What would Bart look like – *happy* – with branches full of leaves in spring?
10. What would Bart look like – *pride* – with a crown of branches full of pears and one apple (The only pear tree growing an apple – something special)?

Drawings must be in color on 8.5 X 11 standard white typing paper. The name of the artist must be printed on the back of each drawing.

Students must select and draw in one, two, or all ten categories and submit the drawing/s by the deadline. Three students will be selected in June.

The winners will receive a contract prize for drawings as follows:

- 1st place \$350.00 dollars to submit five drawings,
- 2nd place \$175.00 dollars to submit three drawings, and
- 3rd place \$125.00 dollars to submit two drawings.

The entry winning drawing by each artist will be one of the contracted drawings. A picture and short biography of each winner will be included in the book.

My Grafting Experience

It has always been much easier for me to write from personal experience because I carry that library in my head. With this in mind I decided to submerge myself into the grafting experience. What follows is a brief account of my three years of research and experience with grafting fruit trees to acquire the basic knowledge and skills to write a second children's book – *Bart: The Pear Tree That Grew An Apple*.

Three years ago in March I attended a fruit tree grafting workshop at the Elizabeth Gamble Gardens in Palo Alto, California. Grafting is not new to me; I was privy to this propagation of plants in my elementary school years when my father grafted a sweet orange branch to an old sour orange tree in our backyard in south Texas. So when I browsed through the Web three years ago, the announcement on grafting fruit trees grabbed my eye.

The workshop was a “hands-on,” and all of the participants attending got to work on several grafting techniques. At the end of the workshop I purchased five apple rootstocks and took a handful of different apple scions home with me.

The following day I grafted some of the scions to the rootstocks and six weeks later growth appeared on all of them – I was hooked! The following year, after attending the scion exchange in Sebastopol, I became a CRFG (California Rare Fruit Growers) Sebastopol Chapter member. My interest piqued, I searched the Web for cross-grafting between different fruit trees, in particular the subject of my interest – apples and pears. This had been on my mind since hearing conversations between old timers who grew up with a grafting knife in their back pocket, saying that “...pit to pit, seed to seed...” would always grow, confirming what



Varro had said centuries ago. (Marcus Terrentius Varro (167- BC) addressed the issue of rootstock and scion compatibility saying, “...you cannot, for instance, graft a pear on an Oak, even though you can on an apple.”)

My search led me to several blogs on the Web and people who had grafted apples to pears and vice versa. Although successful in their grafting, these individuals stated the scion died within three to four years and some never produced fruit – that is, they bloomed but fruit never developed or the fruit dropped before it achieved full maturity. Still others feel that an interstock like *Winter Banana* is needed to allow the graft to take between the apple and pear trees.

The second year I felt hopeful that grafting apple scions to pear would be successful – the apple scions from that workshop that I also grafted to the old Bartlett pear tree in my backyard (the subject of my book) had sprouted green leaves. (That first summer was a hot one; the grafted apple scions just sat like dried sticks on top of the Bartlett pear tree, and I thought they had all died.) Only one of the scions produced blossoms, resulting in one small apple knocked down by birds before it matured.

