Mandarin is propagated by shield budding on the rootstock of Jambhiri (Citrus jambhiri Lush) and Rangpur lime (Citrus limonia osb). Fruits of Jambhiri and Rangpur lime are available in the month of September-October. Seedlings are ready for budding in the month of November and December in the next year. In Vidarbha Amravati, Nagpur and Wardha districts are well known for mandarin production where more than 80 lac of Nagpur mandarin nursery plants are raised and sold through 325 to 350 government and private nursery (Anonymous, 2000). So by providing genuine planting material which is disease and pest free productivity level of mandarin in this area can be increased to considerable extent. This is only possible in greenhouse nursery but at present there is no standardized time for budding in Nagpur mandarin under greenhouse condition in Vidarbha region, hence, the study was under taken to standardized date of budding in nagpur mandarin under open field and shade net conditions.

The present study was conducted during 2009-2010 at experimental orchard of AICRP (Tropical Fruits) Dr. PDKV, Akola. The experiment was laid down in Completely Randomized Design comprising twelve treatments, three replication with 50 bud grafts under each treatment. The rootstocks selected for experimental purpose were of pencil thickness, straight in growth and in good sap flow condition having longitudinal white streak on the bark. Bud wood selected for budding operation was to be selected form fairly well mature non bearing current year shoot having longitudinal white streak on the bark and swollen buds which are ready to grow after budding. Shield budding operation was done at 15 days interval from 15th November to 30th January under open field and shade net condition. The experimental area was provided with uniform cultural practices. Data on bud take per cent was recorded 30 days after budding. Whereas the final budding success was observed 90 days after budding. The data was analyzed as per the method suggested by Gomez and Gomez (1984).

Different dates of budding and environment had significant influence on bud take per cent and budding success in Nagpur mandarin (Table 1). Highest bud take 83.67 per cent was obtained by budding on 15th December in open field condition. This might be due to the availability of congenial...