Your Rootstock is:

Apple: Antonovka - Budagovski 9* - EMLA 7* - EMLA 26* - EMLA 27** - MM 111
Cherry: Krymsk 5
Pear: OHxF 333
Plum/Apricot: Marianna 2624
Quince: Province BA 29C

Your Scion [graft] is: _____

*This rootstock will need a stake for support, for a couple of months.
** EMLA 27 will need permanent support – either stake or trellis.

Care for your newly grafted fruit tree

It's been said – the after-graft-care is as important *or even more important* as the actual graft (scion to rootstock) itself. In order to ensure a successful tree, please consider these topics.

Check graft regularly

- **Maintain a good seal on the graft –** The seal that protects and holds the graft must be kept in place long enough for the two pieces to grow together. The seal prevents humidity loss which is one reason a graft may fail.
  I know – I unwrapped the seal too early on my first grafts. Growth had started on the scion and I thought the graft was done and all was well. What I failed to understand – the rootstock and scion wood takes time to fuse/grow together. Just because you have growth on the scion wood, does not mean your graft is complete. At the point it looks like all is going well – about 3 – 4 months from the birth/graft date, summer arrives. Summer is dry and your graft is a living, growing plant. And, it's trying to heal together at the graft location. Letting the graft dry out will cause failure for the union. Keep your seal on, be patient and let the cut grow together. Major temperature changes and expansion of the graft union may crack seal / wax on the graft. Reseal if needed.
- **High humidity –** Humid yes, but not wet. Don't let water droplets get onto the graft as these can get between the rootstock and the scion and interrupt the cambium which is trying to fuse/grow together. Dry air will draw water out of the graft and kill the scion. Wind can dry out your graft too. Keep plastic around the graft – but remember – moisture is good, wet is not.
- **Control temperature /give shade –** If your tree is in a pot, ensure the location is not in direct sun for the first summer. If you've chosen to plant your tree directly into the ground, shade protection will help prevent heat-kill of cell tissue on the new graft.
- **Suppress rootstock growth** - The rootstock is a plant with roots, stems, and leaves or buds capable of producing leaves. The scion is a weak compared to the stock it has been grafted to. The rootstock may send its energy to its own parts and not to the scion – watch for growth below the graft. You must aggressively prune off (or thumb out) rootstock growth below the graft union, including ground suckers. Do this as soon as possible – as that energy is being wasted on the rootstock, and you want the energy to go to the graft and scion wood above the graft.
- **Watch for scion growth** – Growth on the scion means the graft union has been successful. But still the plant is very vulnerable and care must be taken that the union doesn't break. Keep sheltered from the wind. Provide a stake (perch) close to the scion, but is taller than the top of the scion. This will encourage birds to use this instead of perching on the new scion.
- **Prevent girdling** - As the scion grows and expands the wrap / seal used to join the graft may restrict the growth. If the wrap is tight and you see the scion has leaf out/ grown, cut the tape to allow unrestricted growth. This shouldn't occur until fall.

Check graft regularly

Sources: http://treesandshrubs.about.com/od/pruning/a/post-grafting-care-for-trees-shrubs.htm
Hartmann, Hudson T. and Dale E. Kester. *Plant Propagation Principles and Practices*, 7 ed. 2002.

There are many variables when creating a new tree using the grafting methodology.

*These are major points within **your control** that will help ensure a successful fruit tree.*