Preventing rootstock re-growth in fruit trees

Recognize the problem
Your recently planted grafted fruit tree is really the union of two plants parts, the upper part called the scion and the lower portion carrying the roots called the root stock. The root stock tends to be more vigorous than the scion and may overtake the scion, eventually bearing the wrong fruit which leads to great disappointment.

Background
The process of budding/grafting is a vegetative propagation method which ensures that there are no genetic variations in the fruit bearing parts between the parent and offspring. A young seedling plant (rootstock) has a scion (budwood) grafted onto the top. Dormancy in the buds of the stock may break and begin to grow after the grafted plant has been planted. This may only be noticed by the grower at harvest when the fruit is discovered to be “not true” to type.

Management
Remove any shoot growth on the rootstock that appears below the graft line using sterilized secateurs (wipe with rubbing alcohol regularly). A clean cut must be made so that healing is swift, thus preventing entry of microorganisms (disease). The grower must continue to be vigilant, repeating the process if there is any reoccurrence of bud growth.