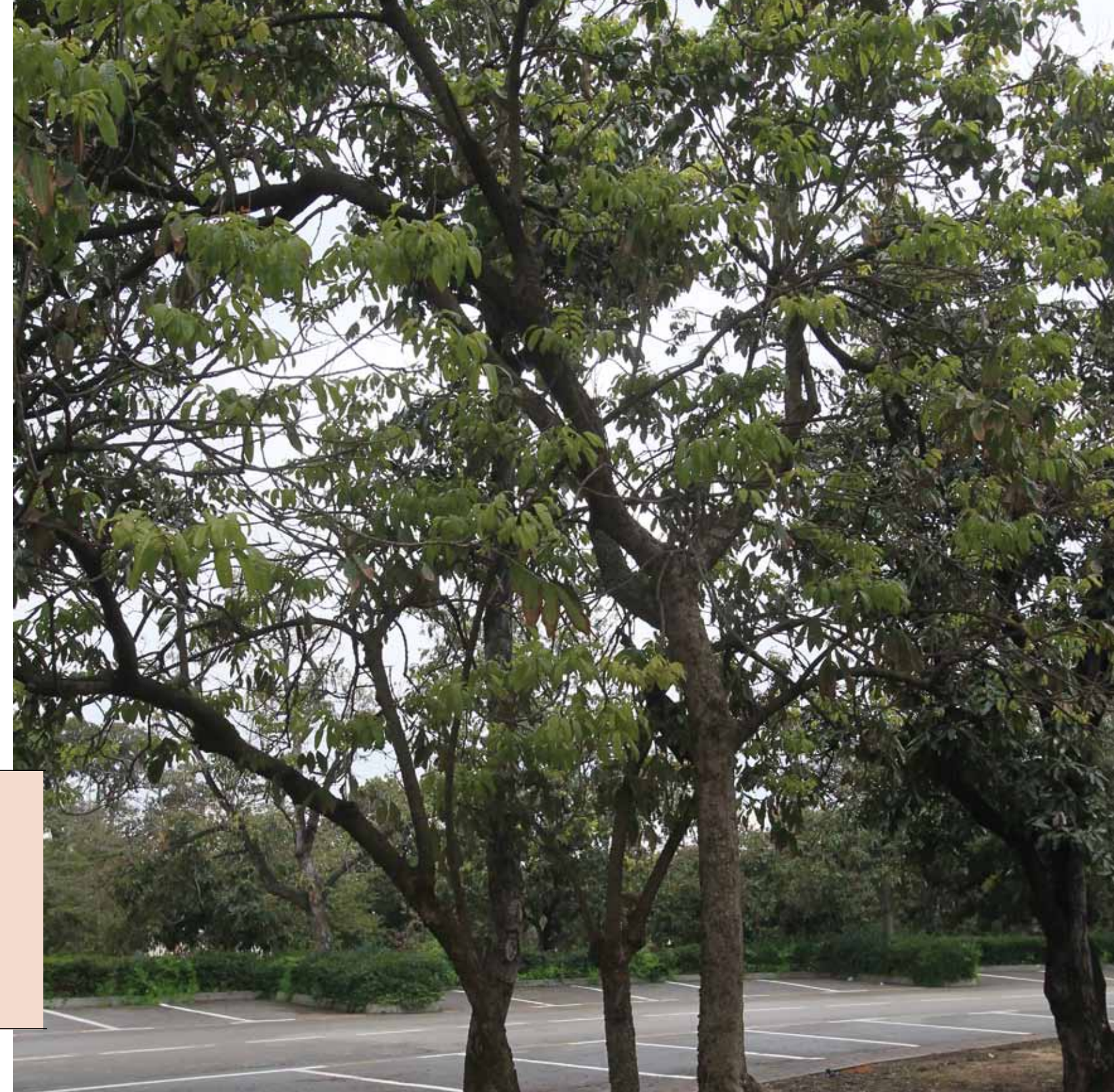




LYCHEE

Signs  
4–19

**Common name:** Lychee  
**Hebrew name:** ליצ'י סיני litchi sini  
**Scientific name:** *Litchi chinensis*  
**Arabic name:** ليتشي  
**Family:** *Sapindaceae*



A slow-growing, small- to medium-sized fruit tree, evergreen, notable for its attractive, graceful fruit. Its trunk is dark and relatively thin, and the crown is round with dense foliage. The leaves are even pinnate (composed of even numbers of leaflets), with long, large, pointed leaflets that point downwards.

In spring, terminal inflorescences (clusters on the branch tips) bear abundant small, petal-less flowers that are yellowish or greenish-white. In summer, showy globular or elliptical fruits ripen inside nubby, thin red skins. Inside the skin is a juicy white,

translucent, strongly scented fruit surrounding a large, smooth, brown seed. The fruits are marketed fresh, dried or canned.

Wild populations of lychee have been preserved in the forests of southern China. It is estimated that it was domesticated there in the early second millennium BCE. For centuries, the lychee was considered the most sought-after fruit in Chinese royal courts, and great efforts were undertaken to serve it regularly. The lychee was introduced to Israel in the 1930s, but only in the 1970s did commercial planting begin.





MALAGASY SAGO PALM

Signs  
10–20

Common name: Malagasy Sago Palm  
Hebrew name: ציקס שרכי *cycas shrachi*  
Scientific name: *Cycas thouarsii*  
Arabic name: سيكاس  
Family: *Cycadaceae*

A palm-like plant with magnificent leaves similar to fern fronds. The cylindrical, upright trunk may split in two, and it can grow up to 10 meters tall. Large, glossy pinnate leaves that can reach a length of up to three meters grow from the top of the trunk. The leaves are soft compared to the more familiar Japanese sago palm, and they curve downwards. Like other species of the genus *Cycas*, male and female flowers develop on separate trees. The male inflorescence (flower cluster) looks like a pine cone arising from the heart of the leaves at the top of the

trunk. The female flowers appear as a cluster of hairy, pinnate leaves at the heart of the plant, and they produce large, red-brown, egg-shaped seeds. The *Cycas* species are among the most ancient of the higher plants, and it is believed that they have existed on earth for over 100 million years. The *Cycas thouarsii*, which is native to Madagascar, is considered the oldest of the *Cycadaceae* family (it appeared approximately 140 million years ago). It is the largest, and without a doubt the fastest-growing, member of the family.







MANGO

- Signs
- 4–14
- 4–17
- 6–6

Common name: Mango  
Hebrew name: מנגו הודי mango hodi  
Scientific name: *Mangifera indica*  
Arabic name: مانجو  
Family: *Anacardiaceae*

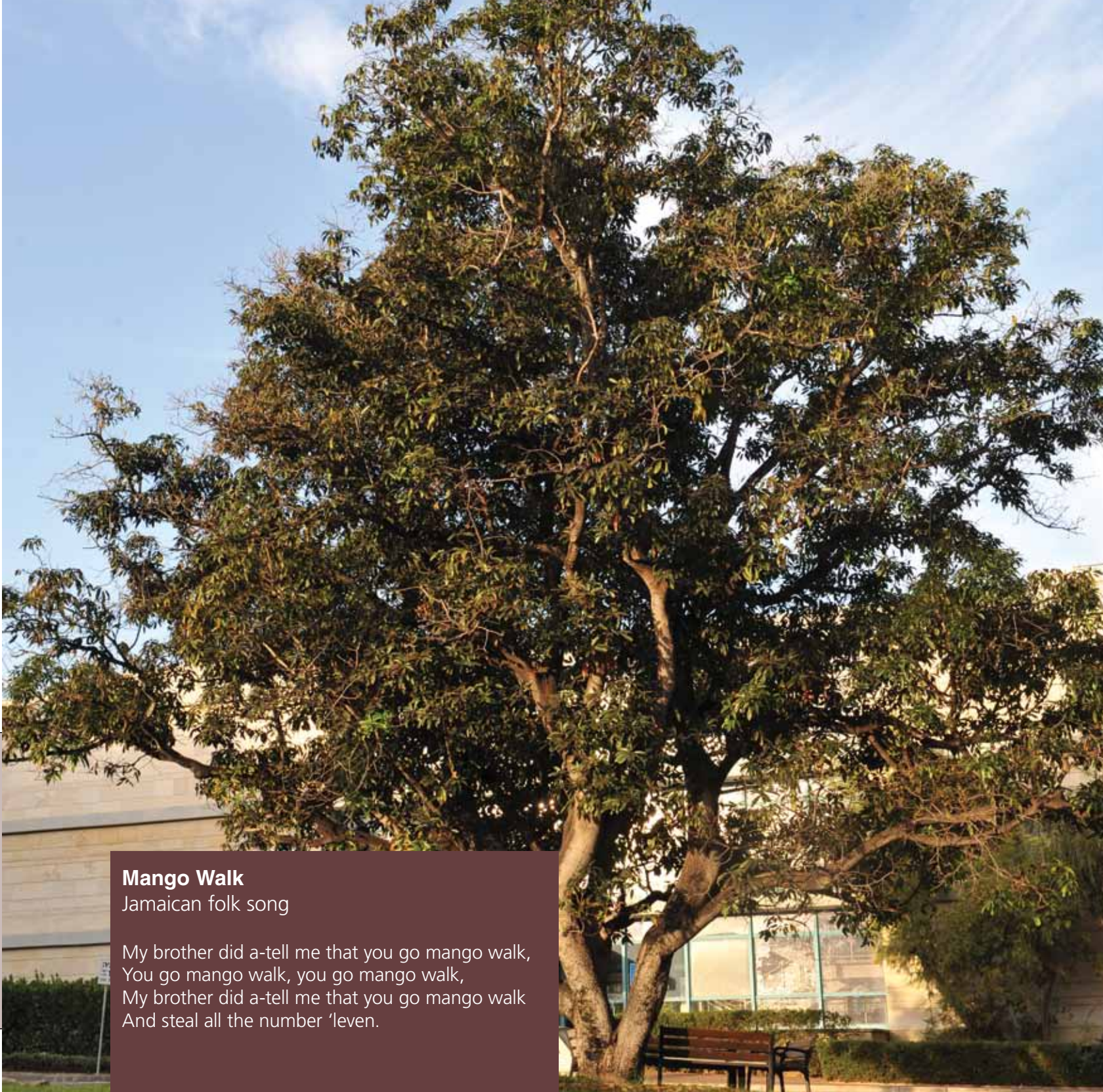
An evergreen fruit tree with an impressively large, dense crown. The mango grows to enormous dimensions in its native India, and it is considered to be the largest fruit tree in the world. The trunk is dark, and the dark green leaves are glossy, thick, elongated and pointed. The color of the new leaves varies from red to bronze.

In spring, the flowers develop in large terminal panicles (branched clusters that grow on the branch tips) with a great number of small, pinkish white flowers. Most of the flowers are female; a few are male. In most mango varieties, the tree self-fertilizes.

In summer, large fruits develop on the flower-

ing branches. The shape, color, taste and texture are particular to each variety of mango. The genus *Mangifera* includes several dozen species, about 30 of which produce edible fruit. The Indian mango is the only one grown commercially. It was domesticated in India approximately 4,000 years ago, and over 2,000 different varieties have been developed.

The mango was introduced to Israel from Egypt in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and was planted for agriculture beginning in the 1930s. Since then, a number of local, Israeli varieties have been developed; the most well-known is the Maya mango.



**Mango Walk**  
Jamaican folk song

My brother did a-tell me that you go mango walk,  
You go mango walk, you go mango walk,  
My brother did a-tell me that you go mango walk  
And steal all the number 'leven.





## MEDITERRANEAN CYPRESS (horizontalis)

A common, upright coniferous tree. Its gray, fissured trunk rises to the top of the tree, and its horizontal branches give the tree a somewhat disheveled appearance. Its small, scale-like leaves grow from the secondary branches, and the ends of the branches contain flowers in the form of small cones, both male and female. The females are wind pollinated and develop into globular cones whose internal seeds ripen within two years.

The Mediterranean cypress grows wild in the eastern Mediterranean and in western Asia – from

Signs

2–14

3–3

Common name: Mediterranean Cypress,  
Italian Cypress

Hebrew name: ברוש מצוי 'אופקי' brosh matzui 'ofki'

Scientific name: *Cupressus sempervirens 'horizontalis'*

Arabic name: سرو

Family: *Cupressaceae*

"...and he covered the floor of the house with  
boards of cypress" (1 Kings 6:15)

Israel to Iran. The Land of Israel's wild populations now remain only on the east bank of the Jordan River. The cypress is mentioned in the Bible as a tree used in the construction of the Temple, though it is uncertain whether today's cypress is identical to that mentioned in the Bible. In the cultures of the region, the cypress is associated with mourning, and it is planted beside Christian, Muslim and Jewish cemeteries.

Hardy and resilient, the cypress is often used for afforestation. Its use in windbreaks has made it a familiar part of Israel's agricultural landscape.







MEDITERRANEAN CYPRESS (*stricta*)

An upright, coniferous tree, with branches that grow straight up, staying close to the trunk, which gives it a distinct, narrow cone shape. In most aspects, the *stricta* variety is identical to its *horizontalis* relative: Its trunk is straight, gray and fissured; its cones are globular and woody; and its foliage is dark, but denser and usually greener than that of the *horizontalis*.

Like the *horizontalis*, which is the original wild variety of the tree, the *stricta* is durable and resilient in a range of harsh conditions. It is considered the more distinctive and familiar form of the cypress; its

- Signs
- 2–8
  - 3–7
  - 10–1
  - 10–9

Common name: Mediterranean Cypress, Italian Cypress  
Hebrew name: ברוש מצוי 'צריפי' brosh matzui 'tzrifi'  
Scientific name: *Cupressus sempervirens 'stricta'*  
Arabic name: سرو هرمي  
Family: *Cupressaceae*

"...I have gone up the heights of the mountains, to the far recesses of Lebanon; I felled its tallest cedars, its choicest cypresses" (Isaiah 37:24)

unmistakable appearance, something like an exclamation point, has led to its wide use as an ornamental tree from antiquity until today.

In Israel, the *stricta* is often used alongside the *horizontalis* in gardens, forests and the agricultural landscape, and sometimes intermediate forms are used. Recently, especially narrow, compact members of the *stricta* group have been bred from individual specimens found in Israel and the region. Some of them bear the names of the places from which they were collected, including Santa-Katerina and Sha'ar Hagai.



from **Come Away**  
William Shakespeare

Come away, come away, death,  
And in sad cypress let me be laid.  
Fly away, fly away, breath;  
I am slain by a fair cruel maid.  
My shroud of white, stuck all with yew,  
O, prepare it!  
My part of death, no one so true  
Did share it.





MEDITERRANEAN FAN PALM

A short palm tree with multiple trunks and an impressive sculptural shape. Several trunks covered in brown fibers grow from the base of the tree to a height of 1.5 to 5 meters. When mature, the group of trunks comes to resemble a candelabrum. Small- to medium-sized, rounded, fan-shaped fronds, which are split into narrow, stiff lobes, grow from the tops of the trunks. The petioles (leafstalks) are armed with sharp thorns that protect the young leaves from grazing animals.

In spring, yellow inflorescences (clusters) of

Signs

3–6

7–13

10–19

Common name: Mediterranean Fan Palm

Hebrew name: כמרופס נמוך chamaerops namuch

Scientific name: *Chamaerops humilis*

Arabic name: الوقل الخاشع

Family: *Arecaceae* (*Palmae*)

male and female flowers develop on separate trees. The pollen is carried by the wind and, in the plant's native region, it is also transferred by a unique species of beetle. On female trees, clusters of small, round green fruits develop that turn purple-brown when ripe.

The Mediterranean fan palm is the only species in its genus. It is the only palm that grows wild in Europe. The tree is native to the Iberian Peninsula and North Africa, where its leaves are used for weaving baskets and mats, and for making brooms.







## MEXICAN CYPRESS

A rare coniferous tree. In its youth it has a conical shape, while in maturity the crown tends to become rounded and take on a sculptural form. Its green foliage is made up of scale-like leaves, as in other cypress species. When its small, globular cones ripen, they open and release their seeds. Some of the cones have a mechanism that opens only following fire, and thus they renew fire-damaged forests.

The Mexican cypress grows wild in the high mountains of Mexico and Central America. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was introduced into Portugal, where it eventually became mistakenly designated as a

Signs

3–8

Common name: Mexican Cypress, Portugal Cedar

Hebrew name: ברוש פורטוגלי brosh portugali

Scientific name: *Cupressus lusitanica*

Arabic name: سرو برتغالي

Family: *Cupressaceae*

*"I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit" (Hosea 14:8/9)*

native species. It grows in a range of conditions in its native countries and therefore it is considered an especially durable and resilient tree. Due to this durability, it has been planted around the world for afforestation, erosion prevention and windbreaking. Thanks to the quality of its timber, it is also grown commercially.

In Israel, the benefits of the Mexican cypress have yet to be fully discovered, and it is still quite rare. Individual trees are planted here and there in gardens; the mature ones among them are distinct in their unique sculptural appearance.







MEXICAN FAN PALM

Signs

- 5-3
- 6-11
- 7-7
- 8-2
- 8-8
- 9-6
- 10-17

Common name: Mexican Fan Palm  
Hebrew name: ושינגטוניה חסונה washingtonia chasona  
Scientific name: *Washingtonia robusta*  
Arabic name: الواشنتونيا  
Family: *Arecaceae (Palmae)*



A tall palm tree, one of the oldest and most common ornamental palms in Israel. Its fan-shaped fronds emerge from the top of the trunk. White threads grow between the fans' ribs. As the fronds mature, they lean outwards and then downwards. The dry fronds sometimes accumulate to produce the tree's characteristic "petticoat." Creamy white flower clusters grow among the leaves, and these are replaced by small, dark, round fruits that fall to the ground.

Mexican fan palms were planted in the first moshavot (rural communities) in Israel, among other things as "gate trees" for courtyards, and they have become a landmark of the moshava landscape. The

agronomist and member of NILI (a Jewish spy ring), Aaron Aaronsohn, did wonders with Mexican fan palms, planting several boulevards of them. The Mexican fan palm also stars on famous Hollywood boulevards. Apparently, most of the specimens in Israel are a cross between *Washingtonia robusta*, which is native to northwestern Mexico, and *Washingtonia filifera* (Arizona fan palm), native to the southwestern United States.

*Washingtonia* is resilient in the face of heat, drought and salinity, as well as salt spray from the sea, and therefore is often planted in gardens along the coast.





MEXICAN ROSE

Signs

3–9

**Common name:** Mexican Rose

**Hebrew name:** דומביאה ורודה dombeya v'ruda

**Scientific name:** *Dombeya cayeuxii* (rosea)

**Arabic name:** ورد مكسيكي

**Family:** *Sterculiaceae*



#### from **My Pretty Rose Tree**

William Blake

A flower was offered to me;  
Such a flower as May never bore.  
But I said I've a Pretty Rose-tree.  
And I passed the sweet flower o'er.

Then I went to my Pretty Rose-tree:  
To tend her by day and by night.  
But my Rose turn'd away with jealousy:  
And her thorns were my only delight.

A large, wide, evergreen, tropical shrub noted for its large leaves and winter blooms. Numerous dense branches with brown bark grow from the base of the trunk. The round, wide crown is made up of very large, round leaves, each with several pointed lobes. The leaves are somewhat hairy and have a “rumpled” look.

In winter, huge, showy, ball-like inflorescences (flower clusters) made up of numerous bright pink flowers hang among the leaves. The tree stays in bloom well into the spring. The clusters continue to

hang, even when the flowers have wilted and turned brown. As far as is known, the plant does not produce fruit in Israel.

The genus *Dombeya* belongs to the *Sterculiaceae* family, and includes over 200 species from southern and eastern Africa, and Madagascar. The derivation of the Mexican rose that is generally found in Israel is unclear. It is known by various names in different sources, and it may possibly be a cross between a few similar species. In Israel, the Mexican rose is primarily found in older gardens.





## MOUNT TABOR OAK

Signs

1–15

8–17

Common name: Mount Tabor Oak

Hebrew name: אלון התבור alon ha'tavor

Scientific name: *Quercus ithaburensis*

Arabic name: الل

Family: *Fagaceae*

*"They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains,  
and offer upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and  
terebinths, because the shadow thereof is good..."*  
(Hosea 4:13)



A broad, deciduous or semi-deciduous tree. Its primary branches wind upward and out from the wide, short trunk. The leaves have serrated edges and small hairs sprouting from their undersides. The Mount Tabor oak sheds its leaves late in the winter and sprouts new growth early in the spring; some specimens may not shed their leaves at all.

The Mount Tabor oak is at its most beautiful when in bud, covered with a greenish-gold coat of new leaves and flowers. The acorns, which develop out of the flowers, are larger than those of other oak species, and the large cupules (cups) that hold them have long, curly protrusions. When roasted, the acorns can be used to make a coffee-like beverage, and the cupules

are used for decoration.

There are approximately 600 species of oak. Most of these are native to temperate regions of the northern hemisphere, but the Mount Tabor oak (or as it is called in the Bible, *alon habashan*) grows wild only in Israel and in Syria, on both sides of the Syrian-African rift. In the past, it covered vast portions of the Land of Israel. Ancient specimens, hundreds of years old, are scattered from the Golan Heights to the Sharon.

Mount Tabor oaks have been planted at different times along the Institute's Marcus Sieff Boulevard; future plans include creating a continuous strip of them along this route.





NORFOLK ISLAND PINE

Signs

3–15

10–6

**Common Name:** Norfolk Island Pine

**Hebrew Name:** אראוקריה רמה *araucaria ramah*

**Scientific Name:** *Araucaria heterophylla (excelsa)*

**Arabic Name:** اړوكاريه

**Family:** *Araucariaceae*



A sculpted tree with a conical, symmetrical profile. The upright trunk extends to the top of the tree and is covered in gray, fissured bark. Several branches grow from a common point on the trunk in whorls that are stacked symmetrically from the bottom of the tree to the top. As the tree matures, though, this symmetry is disrupted. The needle-shaped leaves are densely arranged along the length of the branchlets, which resemble “tails” covered with scales, and they change shape over the lifetime of the tree.

The *Araucariaceae* family is considered one of the

earliest of the conifers. The Norfolk Island pine’s origin is Norfolk Island, located east of Australia, and it was first documented by Captain James Cook in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The Norfolk Island pine is found throughout the world today as an ornamental tree and, thanks to its successful growth in pots, it has become an alternative to the fir as a Christmas tree. The tree was introduced to Israel at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and it became a typical resident of stately gardens in both Jewish and Arab communities.





## NYASALAND MAHOGANY

A very large, tropical evergreen with a thick, tall, straight trunk; the branches only begin high up. The foliage has a rich appearance, and the leaves are even pinnate (composed of even numbers of leaflets) with large green leaflets. The tree has small, fragrant white flowers arranged in sparse clusters, which are barely visible as they are so high up. Its globe-shaped fruits open into four valves, and the seeds germinate easily.

The genus *Khaya* includes a number of species – all hardwoods like mahogany, which is in constant

Signs

5–17

Common Name: Nyasaland Mahogany  
Hebrew Name: חַיָּה נִיאָסִית khaya niassit  
Scientific Name: *Khaya nyasica*  
Arabic Name: مهجوني  
Family: *Meliaceae*

demand for lumber. The Nyasaland mahogany's characteristic red wood has also been used in the past for drums and for canoes called *makoro*. Though this tree grows from the Ivory Coast to Mozambique, it is, nonetheless, named after Lake Nyasa in Malawi. Today, the tree is endangered due to deforestation in Africa.

The only group of mature trees of this species in Israel is located at the Weizmann Institute of Science. They were planted here experimentally by Dr. Israel Gindel as part of the work of the JNF's Forestry Research Lab.







OLIVE

- Signs
- 1–13
- 1–16
- 7–3

Common name: Olive  
Hebrew name: זית אירופי zayit eiropi  
Scientific name: *Olea europaea*  
Arabic name: زيتون  
Family: *Oleaceae*

*“And the dove came in to him at eventide; and lo in her mouth an olive-leaf freshly plucked; so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth” (Genesis 8:11)*

A tree with deep roots in human civilization, the olive tree is a small- to medium-sized evergreen. Its trunk is gray and smooth, and as it ages, it gains its characteristic knots and twists. Very old trunks may lose their heartwood, becoming hollow. The stiff, elongated leaves are dark gray on top and silver on the underside, so that the tree changes color with every gust of wind. Clusters of small white flowers appear on the tree in spring, and the oil-filled fruits that replace them are what have assured the tree its place in history.

The *Oleaceae* family includes a number of plants that are not at all similar to the olive, including such flowering shrubs as lilac and jasmine. The genus *Olea* includes approximately 20 species, almost all of them native to Africa, Asia and Australia. The olive tree is the only one of these whose native region abuts

Europe, hence its scientific name. The tree grows wild in the eastern Mediterranean and western Asia.

The domesticated growth of the olive in this region began thousands of years ago and spread throughout the world. The olive is one of the seven species of the Land of Israel mentioned in the Bible, and was one of the three economic bases of biblical Israel: “grain, wine, and oil” (olive oil). The tree is often mentioned in the Bible as being beneficial, honored and valued.

In Israel, there are olive trees known to be hundreds of years old or more, and some are claimed to be 2,000 years old. The olive tree also has a prominent place in other cultures and religions that have developed in this region. The olive branch has become a universal symbol of peace and appears in the United Nations emblem as well as in the emblem of the State of Israel, where it is the national tree.



from **The Apple Orchard**  
Rainer Maria Rilke

Thus must it be, when willingly you strive  
throughout a long and uncomplaining life,  
committed to one goal: to give yourself!  
And silently to grow and to bear fruit.





OMBÚ

A wide tree that grows quickly and develops a protuberance of odd-looking, thickened roots at the base of the tree. Their thickness protects the shallow roots from drying out, as well as anchoring the tree in storms. One short, thick trunk, or several trunks or branches, can rise from the base of the tree. This creates an unusual sculptural appearance. The bark is brown. The wood is soft and spongy, has a high water content, and breaks easily. The tree is usually ever-green. The thick, glossy leaves are large with pointed tips.

## Signs

9–15

**Common name:** Ombú, Bella Sombra  
**Hebrew name:** פיטולקה דו-ביתית *phytolacca du-beitit*  
**Scientific name:** *Phytolacca dioica*  
**Arabic name:** لكیه ثنائية المسكن  
**Family:** *Phytolaccaceae*

The inflorescences (flower clusters) that bloom in the spring droop downwards in sprays of small cream or yellowish flowers. Each tree is entirely male or female (hence the name: *dioica*). On female trees, after the tree blooms, clusters of dark, round, juicy fruits appear. The fruits are poisonous to mammals (including humans), but are eaten by birds.

There are approximately 25 species in the genus *Phytolacca*, most of them herbaceous (non-woody). The Ombú is characteristic of plains landscapes – the pampas regions of Argentina and Uruguay.







## ORCHID TREE

Signs

3-5

Common name: Orchid Tree

Hebrew name: בוהיניה מגוונת *bauhinia meguvenet*

Scientific name: *Bauhinia variegata*

Arabic name: بوهينيا ملونه

Family: *Fabaceae* (*Caesalpinaceae*)



A small- to medium-sized tree that blooms magnificently in the spring. Its trunk is gray-brown, its crown is round, and its large, rounded leaves are folded and cleft into two lobes. The tree sheds its leaves in winter either completely or partially, depending on the region and the temperature.

In spring, the orchid tree is covered in large, fragrant flowers that are reminiscent of orchids. The fan-shaped flower has five unequal petals. The most

common variety has pink flowers with a dark spot on the central petal, but another variation has a snow-white blossom. After the flowering, flat pods that turn brown appear on the tree.

The genus *Bauhinia* contains around 200 species of trees, shrubs and even climbers, all of which grow in warm climates. The orchid tree is native to southern China, India and Pakistan. In Israel the orchid tree has been grown as an ornamental tree since the 1920s.





ORIENTAL PLANE TREE

A large, impressive deciduous tree – one of the most magnificent trees in Israel. Its trunk is tall, and when mature, the smooth bark thickens and forms fissures. Its crown is tall and expands as the tree matures. The large leaves are divided into narrow, serrated lobes, and their light green color changes to golden brown before they fall. The tree is impressive adorned in its autumn finery and all the more so when bare in winter.

The small flowers form round clusters; male and female flowers grow separately on the same tree. The female flowers develop into globular, fuzzy fruits that hang from stems in strings of three to six. The number of fruits in a string is one of the identifying marks of

Signs

8–11

Common name: Oriental Plane Tree

Hebrew name: דולב מזרחי dolev mizrachi

Scientific name: *Platanus orientalis*

Arabic name: دلب

Family: *Platanaceae*

the various *Platanus* species.

The genus *Platanus*, composed of 10 species, is the only genus of the *Platanaceae* family, and it is native to the northern hemisphere. The Oriental plane tree grows naturally near water, from southern Europe to northern India. The tree has great importance in many cultures; in Kashmir, for example, all Oriental plane trees are protected by law and considered state property.

The Oriental plane tree is very common as a shade tree on boulevards and in gardens all around the world. In Israel, where it grows wild, the tree is typical of northern landscapes with flowing water. The Oriental plane tree is also very popular in gardening.







OVAL KUMQUAT

A small, charming citrus tree, grown both ornamentally and for its fruit. It looks like a citrus tree whose parts have all been shrunk and most resembles the clementine tree. The oval kumquat has a short trunk, an elliptical shape and dense, dark foliage. Its leaves are smaller than other citrus leaves, and they are elongated and pointed. Like other citrus trees, it requires regular watering.

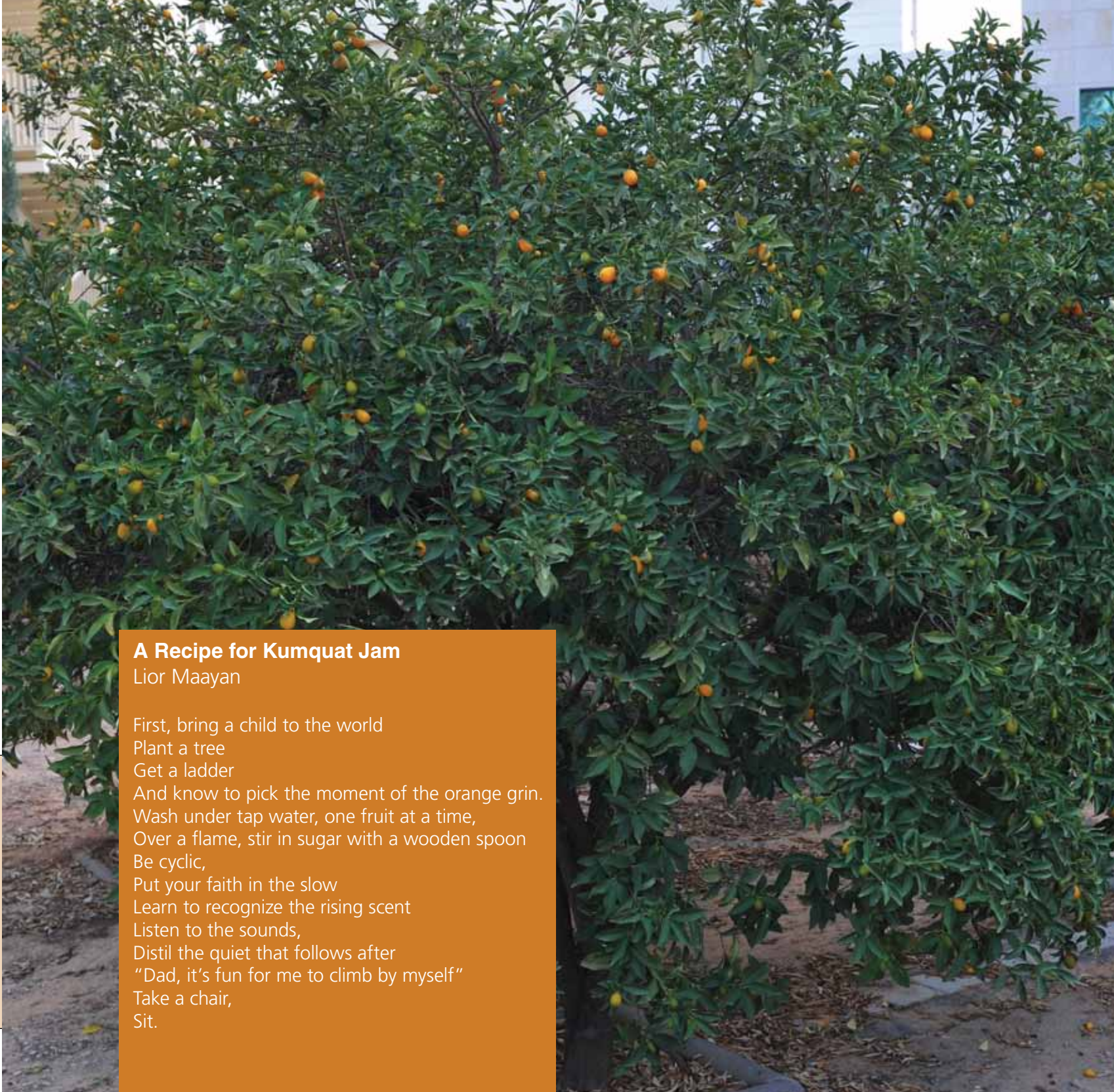
In late spring, the oval kumquat blooms in an abundance of fragrant, white citrus flowers; while in winter, small, ripe, orange fruits decorate the tree, each fruit containing two or three seeds. The fruit's

Signs  
4-2

**Common name:** Oval Kumquat, Nagami Kumquat  
**Hebrew name:** קומקווט סגלגל kumquat sgalgal  
**Scientific name:** *Fortunella margarita*  
*(Citrus japonica 'margarita')*  
**Arabic name:** ليمون كمكات  
**Family:** *Rutaceae*

peel is sweet and the flesh inside sour. The fruit is eaten fresh or preserved along with the peel, and it is used to make jams, liqueurs, tea and alcoholic beverages.

There are six species of kumquat, all from East Asia. Some claim that it is a separate genus (*Fortunella*) from *Citrus* while others believe all of the species to be varieties of *Citrus japonica*. The oval kumquat is native to southern China. Its attractiveness and compact size have made the kumquat a common ornamental tree in Israel for small gardens, courtyards, roofs and balconies.



A Recipe for Kumquat Jam

Lior Maayan

First, bring a child to the world  
 Plant a tree  
 Get a ladder  
 And know to pick the moment of the orange grin.  
 Wash under tap water, one fruit at a time,  
 Over a flame, stir in sugar with a wooden spoon  
 Be cyclic,  
 Put your faith in the slow  
 Learn to recognize the rising scent  
 Listen to the sounds,  
 Distil the quiet that follows after  
 “Dad, it’s fun for me to climb by myself”  
 Take a chair,  
 Sit.





PECAN

- Signs
- 2–12
- 6–12
- 9–5

Common name: Pecan  
Hebrew name: קריית הפקן karyat ha'pecan  
Scientific name: *Carya illinoensis*  
Arabic name: جوز  
Family: *Juglandaceae*

A deciduous tree, one of the largest growing in Israel. It is used for its nuts and as an ornamental tree. The trunk is upright, grey and fissured, and its pinnate leaves are composed of elongated, pointed leaflets with serrated edges. In fall and early winter, its leaves take on autumn shades of dark yellow.

In spring, after the new leaves appear, greenish male and female inflorescences (flower clusters) develop on the same tree. The flowers are wind-pollinated. Once fertilized, long fruits develop, enveloped in a thick husk that is first green and then brown. The fruits open in autumn into four valves that

release the nut onto the ground.

The genus *Carya* (hickory) contains approximately 20 species, of which the pecan is the most well known. It is native to the southern and central United States. Pecans are healthy and nutritious; they are eaten fresh or roasted and often used in baking.

Israel's first pecan plantations were planted in the 1950s; at the same time many of the trees were planted in private gardens. Attractive boulevards of pecan trees can be found today in a number of locations, including the Weizmann Institute.



**Winter Trees**  
William Carlos Williams

All the complicated details  
of the attiring and  
the disattiring are completed!  
A liquid moon  
moves gently among  
the long branches.  
Thus having prepared their buds  
against a sure winter  
the wise trees  
stand sleeping in the cold.





PINK IPÊ

Signs  
5-1

**Common name:** Pink Ipê, Pink Trumpet Tree,  
Pink Lapacho

**Hebrew name:** טבבוית איפה tabebuiat ipe

**Scientific name:** *Tabebuia impetiginosa (ipe)*

**Arabic name:** عيفقان

**Family:** *Bignoniaceae*



A tree that briefly sheds its leaves and blooms spectacularly in springtime. The tree is native to South America, where it grows to a considerable size, while in other places it is medium-sized when mature. The trunk is relatively thin, and the round crown is not dense. The leaves are palmate, composed of five leaflets that grow from a central point, like a hand, with the central leaflet larger than the others.

In the spring, abundant clusters of large trumpet-shaped flowers appear on the tree for a

short while. The flowers are a vivid pink with yellow spots inside the throat. There are also varieties with white or magenta flowers. As the tree matures, its bloom becomes showier. After blooming, dark elongated pods hang from the tree.

The genus *Tabebuia* includes about 100 species, all from the American tropics. The pink ipê has a wide distribution in forests from Mexico to northern Argentina and probably also grew wild on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago. The pink ipê is the national tree of Paraguay.





## POMEGRANATE

A small, deciduous fruit tree that holds a special place in all the cultures of the region. It grows on several trunks and has a shrub-like structure. Its reddish, arching branches have sharp, pointy tips. Its leaves are soft, elongated and pale, and before falling, they turn a deep yellow. New leaf growth is reddish.

Clusters of prominent red flowers with wrinkled petals develop on the tree in early summer. The flowers grow out of a red, fleshy, jug-shaped calyx that ends in a "crown" of wide-set teeth. In autumn the calyx ripens into a large, polygon-shaped fruit with the familiar "crown" on top. Inside each fruit are hundreds

Signs  
8-3

**Common name:** Pomegranate

**Hebrew name:** רִמּוֹן מַצּוּי rimon matzu'i

**Scientific name:** *Punica granatum*

**Arabic name:** رمان شائع

**Family:** *Punicaceae*

*"A land of wheat and barley, and wines and fig trees  
and pomegranates; a land of olive-trees and honey"*  
(Deuteronomy 8:8)

of red or pink seeds arranged in clusters and separated by yellow "dividers."

The pomegranate is native to northern Iran and the western edges of the Himalayas. From there, it spread to our region as an agricultural crop.

One of the seven species with which the land of Israel is traditionally blessed, in Jewish sources the pomegranate symbolizes abundance, wisdom, beauty and blessing. Pomegranate agriculture is on the rise in Israel and abroad, as demand has increased owing to the health benefits of the fruit and the use of its juice in sauces, wines and syrups.







PRIDE OF BOLIVIA

A large shade tree with a wide crown. Its foliage is moderately dense, making for mild, pleasant shade. The pride of Bolivia is semi-deciduous; in warm climates it does not shed its leaves at all. In late spring or early summer, groups of slightly wrinkled flowers develop on the tree for a brief period. The flowers do not stand out when on the tree, but when they fall to the ground en masse, they color it bright yellow. Each fruit that develops after the tree blooms is actually a single seed attached to a large wing.

**Common name:** Pride of Bolivia, Rosewood

**Hebrew name:** מכנף נאה michnaf na'eh

**Scientific name:** *Tipuana tipu*

**Arabic Name:** بليسندر جميله

**Family:** *Fabaceae (Papilionaceae)*

The pride of Bolivia is native to Bolivia and Argentina, where it grows in a variety of conditions. Its timber is valued in the furniture industry and is known in the industry as rosewood (similar to the timber of the *Dalbergia sissoo*) or Brazilian rosewood.

Because it grows quickly, and is strong and hardy, it has become a common ornamental tree around the world. In Israel, its use as an ornamental tree began in the 1970s and 80s, when it was often planted as a shade tree for boulevards, gardens and groves throughout the country.



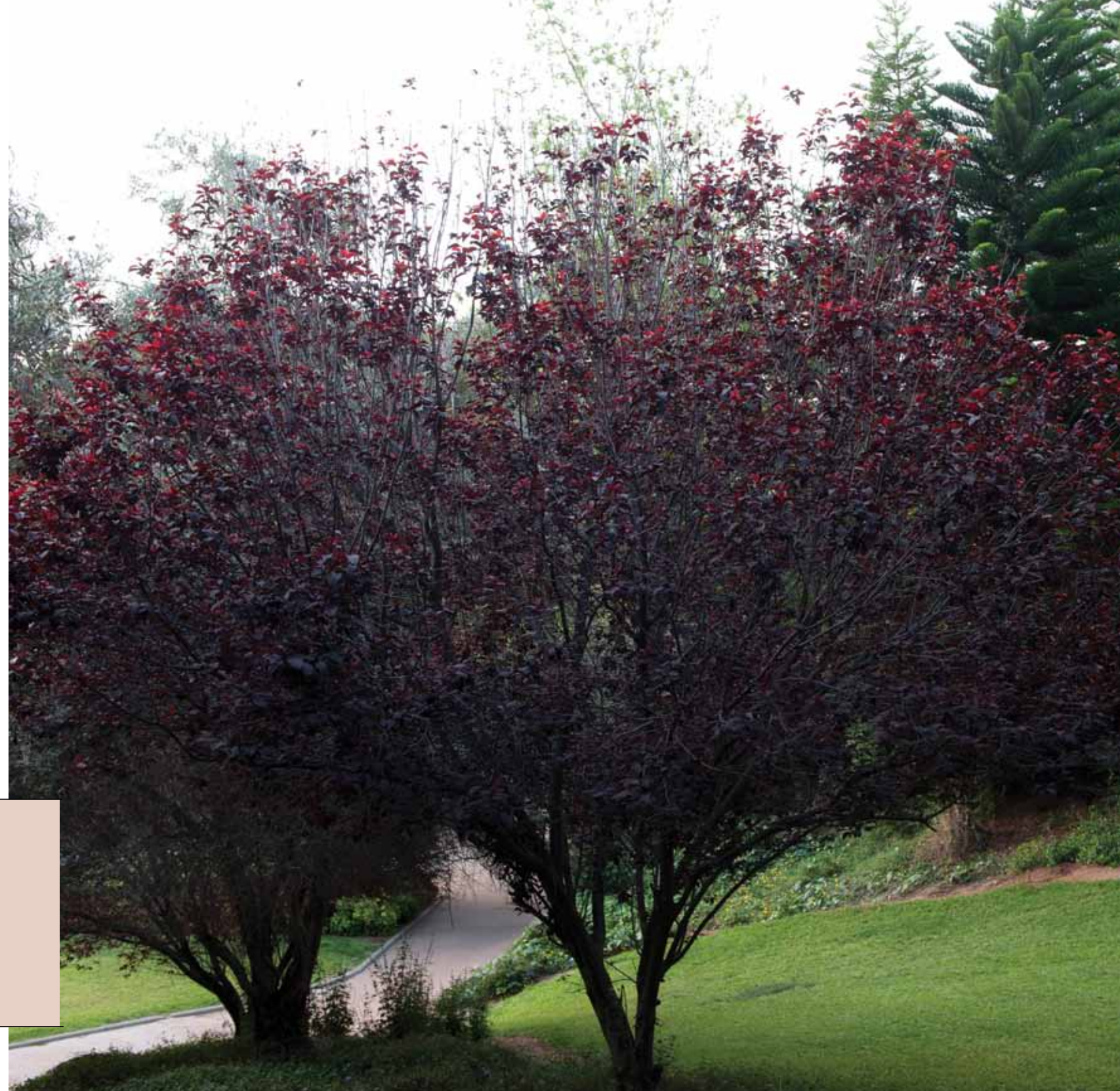




PURPLE-LEAF PLUM

Signs  
3–14

**Common name:** Purple-Leaf Plum  
**Hebrew name:** 'אדום' שזיף דובדבני shezif duvdevani 'adom'  
**Scientific name:** *Prunus cerasifera*  
*'atropurpurea' ('pissardii')*  
**Arabic name:** دراق كرزي  
**Family:** *Rosaceae*



A small, deciduous tree notable for its colorful foliage. Young trees have a narrow shape that rounds out as they mature. Its trunk is short and brown. Its numerous branches have dark brown bark with serrated and pointed egg-shaped leaves growing on them. New leaf growth is bronze-colored; the leaves turn purple as they mature, and they redden before falling in winter. In late winter and early spring, when the tree is still bare, it covers itself in a cloak of white flowers with reddish centers. Small globular fruits

develop in summer – purple, like the leaves, and edible but sour.  
In its original form, the species, which is native to western Asia, is small with green leaves and red or yellow fruit. This cultivar was first introduced in France in 1880 by M. Pissard, the Shah of Persia's gardener at the time (hence one of its scientific names). It is a popular ornamental tree in many countries, especially those with cool climates. It has recently gained popularity for use in bonsai.





QUEENSLAND LACEBARK

An upright tree that sheds its leaves for a short time while the tree is in bloom. The Queensland lacebark is native to Australia, where it develops into a large tree, but in Israel it is only medium-sized. The thick gray trunk, which stores water, rises straight upward into the crown. Its lobed leaves are green on top and white underneath (hence the Latin name of the species, which means two-colored). The shape of the leaves may vary from tree to tree, making it difficult to distinguish between it and other species

**Common name:** Queensland Lacebark, Pink Flame Tree, Pink Kurrajong  
**Hebrew name:** ברכיכטון דו-גוני brachychiton du-goni  
**Scientific name:** *Brachychiton discolor*  
**Arabic name:** براكيكيتن ثنائي اللون  
**Family:** *Sterculiaceae*

of *Brachychiton*.  
In late spring or early summer, hairy, pink, bell-shaped flowers develop. Though the flowers are sparse, they are large and showy. Following the flowers, large boat-shaped, hairy, woody fruits appear.  
Native Australians make shields from the wood, and the seeds are roasted and eaten. Due to its beauty, and because the tree is strong and easy to grow, it has become a popular ornamental tree in many places around the world.







QUEENSLAND UMBRELLA TREE

A tropical forest tree with rich foliage and a unique bloom. The Queensland umbrella tree usually grows on multiple thin, curved trunks. When young, its large leaves grow out of the top of a single trunk; when the tree matures, this trunk splits into branches and the tree's shape broadens. Its palmate leaves (multiple leaflets growing from a single point) are composed of large glossy leaflets, with a long petiole (leafstalk). The circle of leaves may resemble an umbrella – hence one of the tree's common names.

Signs

6-2

**Common name:** Queensland Umbrella Tree,  
Octopus Tree

**Hebrew name:** שפלרה (ברסאיה) מקרינה  
schefflera (brassaia) makrina

**Scientific name:** *Schefflera (Brassaia) actinophylla*

**Arabic name:** شيفلير

**Family:** *Araliaceae*

In late summer, unusual long inflorescences (flower clusters) resembling horns or tentacles (hence the other common name) grow out of the treetop. Small red flowers containing nectar are borne on the stems of the inflorescences. The tree blooms for several months, and the flowers are replaced by globular purple fruits that are eaten in the tree's native Australia by bats, tree kangaroos, other marsupials and birds.

The Queensland umbrella tree is quite common as an ornamental plant worldwide. As it is a forest tree, it is very suitable for shade or indoor growing.







## RED SILK COTTON TREE

A magnificent, large, tropical tree native to South Asia. Its trunk is upright, rising conically to the top of the tree, and its branches grow either horizontally or somewhat diagonally in “split levels.” Its unique, pagoda-like silhouette is especially noticeable in winter, when it sheds some or all of its hand-shaped leaves.

At the end of winter and in spring, the tree’s bare branches display buds that blossom into enormous

Signs

4–1

7–14

**Common name:** Red Silk Cotton Tree, Kapok

**Hebrew name:** בומבק הודי bombak hodi

**Scientific name:** *Bombax malabaricum (ceiba)*

**Arabic name:** خيزران

**Family:** *Bombacaceae*

orange or orange-red flowers with a plastic appearance. Its fruits open into five valves, releasing seeds wrapped in silky cotton that is blown away by the wind. The fruit’s fibers are harvested as kapok, which is used to fill pillows and blankets.

In China and India the red silk cotton tree has been grown as an ornamental tree for centuries. In Israel it has been grown for some time; its popularity has increased in recent years.







RIVER RED GUM

Signs  
5–11  
5–18

Common name: River Red Gum  
Hebrew name: איקליפטוס המקור eikalyptus hamakor  
Scientific name: *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*  
Arabic name: كينا المنقار  
Family: *Myrtaceae*

A very large tree, common and familiar to most Israelis. The upright trunk is wide and impressive. Its bark is smooth, pale and mottled, and it peels off in strips. The big branches point upwards, and they have a tendency to break off unexpectedly. The dull-olive-green leaves have a characteristic, myrtle-like smell; they are stiff, narrow and slightly bowed. Before opening, the white flowers are hidden in an operculum with a pointed cover that resembles a beak. The flowers give way to bunches of woody, spherical fruits bearing triangular tooth-like valves that open to release the seeds.

The river red gum is the most common of the hundreds of eucalyptus species growing in

Australia and its environs. Often found in the continent’s interior, it grows primarily along river channels with seasonal flooding patterns. The river red gum is an iconic tree in Australia and even appears on some of the country’s postage stamps.

A fast-growing and easily adaptable tree, the river red gum has become one of the most common trees of its kind, used in afforestation and as an ornamental tree around the world. In Israel, the river red gum is associated with the early settlement of the country; the pioneers originally planted it to drain the swamps and, later, as a fast-growing forest tree across the entire country, including in arid regions.







RIVER TEA TREE

A small, erect tree with a shrub-like shape, distinctive for its golden foliage. The trunk is relatively thin and the branches begin near the bottom. The secondary branches are soft and their ends hang down. Small, narrow, spiky leaves are densely arranged along the branches; these have a mild, lemony scent and pale green color. The young leaves at the ends of the branches are golden and give the tree a shiny golden mantle.

In late spring, soft cream-colored flowers in inconspicuous inflorescences (clusters) shaped like short bottle-brushes develop at the ends of the branches.

Signs

8–13

Common name: River Tea Tree

Hebrew name: מללויקה מחופה 'רבולושן-גולד'  
melaleuca mechupa 'revolution gold'

Scientific name: *Melaleuca bracteata* 'Revolution Gold'

Arabic name: بلقاء مغطاة

Family: *Myrtaceae*

The flowers tend to develop into woody fruits clustered on the branches, each fruit resembling a little cup.

The river tea tree is a garden variety of the original species that grows wild along streams in Australia. It is commonly planted in gardens in warm climates throughout the world, either singly or in groups, to provide a contrast to the colors of garden foliage or in hedges. In Israeli gardens, because it is easy to care for and has a distinctive appearance, the river tea tree has become a hit.







## ROSEWOOD

An erect tree that, under favorable conditions, attains considerable dimensions. The rosewood has a tall trunk and wrinkled gray bark. The dark, exquisite heartwood is in great demand for high-quality, high-end carpentry, and the industry name for the wood – rosewood – is also the name of the tree.

The tree is native to northern India where, in winter, the tree sheds its leaves. These are pinnate with three to five leaflets that are round with a prominent sharp point. In Israel, only during especially cold winters does the tree shed all of its leaves; otherwise only some or

Signs

1–14

2–7

Common name: Rosewood

Hebrew name: סיסם הודי *sisam hodi*

Scientific name: *Dalbergia sissoo*

Arabic name: دلبيرجيا سيسو

Family: *Fabaceae* (*Papilionaceae*)

none of the leaves fall. In spring, its small, fragrant yellowish-cream flowers attract honeybees. After the tree blooms, small, flat pods develop.

In the past, rosewood was planted in groves and boulevards throughout Israel, but due to improper care and over-pruning, many of the trees withered or became twisted. In contrast, rosewood trees that have grown undisturbed have established themselves, becoming large and impressive trees. At the Weizmann Institute, rosewood trees grow along the length of Marcus Sieff Boulevard.







## ROYAL POINCIANA

One of the most beautiful trees in Israel. It is prized for its lush red and orange bloom in summer; at its height, the tree appears to “burn” like a flame, hence the common name, flamboyant. The tree has a wide canopied shape, reminiscent of the acacia tree of the Negev; hence the tree’s Hebrew name comes from *tze’ela*, the biblical name for acacia.

The royal poinciana’s trunk and primary branches have an impressive structure, which is apparent when it is bare in winter. Its root system is shallow and sometimes protrudes above ground. Its large

bipinnate (twice-compound) leaves have very small, deep green leaflets. The foliage is usually shed in winter, with new leaf growth occurring late, at the end of spring. After the spectacular bloom, large dark, flat woody pods develop.

The royal poinciana is native to Madagascar, where it is endangered; but as an ornamental tree it thrives in warm, tropical countries. It was introduced into Israel in the 1920s. It grows most successfully in the Jordan Valley and the Arava, where it blooms in flaming red. In other valleys and on the coastal plain, its success depends on local conditions.

### Signs

1–3

1–10

1–20

8–9

**Common name:** Royal Poinciana, Flamboyant

**Hebrew name:** זע'לון נאה tze'elon na'eh

**Scientific name:** *Delonix regia*

**Arabic name:** زهرة الجند

**Family:** *Fabaceae* (*Caesalpinaceae*)







## RUSTY FIG

A large evergreen tree, notable for its dense, dark foliage. Its trunk is robust, smooth and pale. Its leaves are oval and medium-sized; their undersides are rust colored, while their tops are smooth and green, so that the dark foliage stands out in contrast to the pale trunk.

The rusty fig is native to eastern Australia, where tiny wasps pollinate the figs that develop in pairs among the leaves. This pollination softens them and turns them brown. The rusty fig is similar

Signs

1–19

9–4

Common name: Rusty Fig, Port Jackson Fig

Hebrew name: פִּיקוּס חָלוּד *figus chalud*

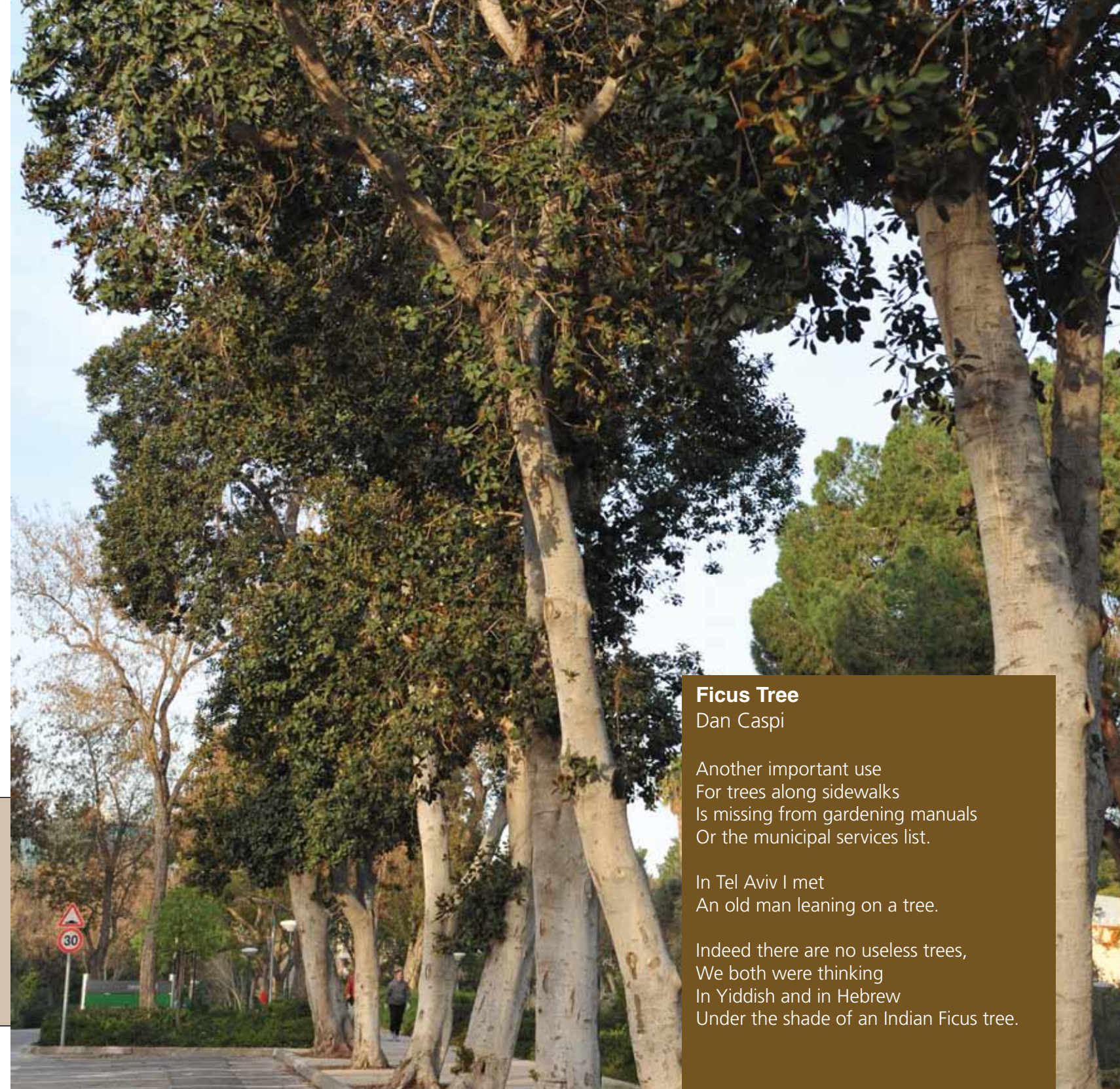
Scientific name: *Ficus rubiginosa*

Arabic name: تين اصهب

Family: *Moraceae*

to the small-leaved fig, *Ficus obliqua*, and intermediate forms exist that blur the distinction among them. Within the *Ficus* genus, the rusty fig is relatively slow-growing and among the least aggressive.

In the past, before the pollinating wasps reached Israel, its unripe fruit remained small and dry, and it was often planted along streets. Today, it is primarily used as an ornamental tree in parks and larger gardens – for shade, screening and as barriers.



## Ficus Tree

Dan Caspi

Another important use  
For trees along sidewalks  
Is missing from gardening manuals  
Or the municipal services list.

In Tel Aviv I met  
An old man leaning on a tree.

Indeed there are no useless trees,  
We both were thinking  
In Yiddish and in Hebrew  
Under the shade of an Indian Ficus tree.