Signs
2–13

Common name: Sacred Fig, Peepul, Bo-Tree
Hebrew name: פיקוס קדוש ficus kadosh
Scientific name: *Ficus religiosa*
Arabic name: فيكوس مقدس
Family: *Moraceae*

SACRED FIG

An enormous tropical tree, one of the most beautiful species in the *Ficus* genus. Its trunk grows very wide and it develops characteristic vertical ribs when mature. Its bark is smooth and pale, and its primary branches grow up in a long diagonal from a low point on the trunk. The foliage is airy, leaving the structure of the tree and its branches visible. Its large, flat, thin leaves are heart-shaped, with a long tail-like point at the end.

In late spring and early summer, around the time of the monsoon season in its native region, the leaves turn yellow and fall all at once for a brief period. Immediately afterwards, new reddish leaves appear, and among them are the pairs of figs, which get pollinated by the tiny wasps that are unique to this tree. The ripe figs attract birds and fruit bats.

The sacred fig is native to the Indian subcontinent, southern China, and Indochina. Buddha is said to have been sitting under this magnificent tree when he attained enlightenment, and it is sacred to both Hindus and Buddhists. One specimen, supposedly planted in Sri Lanka in 288 BCE, is thought to be the oldest angiosperm (flowering plant) in the world. In Hindi culture, the sacred fig is a sign of happiness, success, luck and long life.

Buddha in Glory
Rainer Maria Rilke

Center of all centers, core of cores,
almond self-enclosed, and growing sweet –
all this universe, to the furthest stars
all beyond them, is your flesh, your fruit.

Now you feel how nothing clings to you;
your vast shell reaches into endless space,
and there the rich, thick fluids rise and flow.
Illuminated in your infinite peace,

a billion stars go spinning through the night,
blazing high above your head.
But in you is the presence that
will be, when all the stars are dead.

Signs
4–10

Common name: Sapodilla, Chicle Tree
Hebrew name: ספודילה ערבה sapodilla areva
Scientific name: *Manilkara zapota*
Arabic name: سبوته, زعرور امريكي
Family: *Sapotaceae*

SAPODILLA

A tropical evergreen fruit tree with impressive foliage. Its brown trunk exudes a white rubbery substance called chicle, which is used to make chewing gum. The tree's shape is oval and uneven. Its dense, elliptical, thick, glossy leaves are the tree's main charm.

A few inconspicuous white flowers may appear on the tree throughout the year. Subsequently, round brown fruits develop among the leaves once or twice a year. There is no difference in appearance between ripe and unripe fruits, but ripe fruits are soft to the touch and have very sweet, yellow-to-brown flesh that tastes like caramel or chocolate pudding.

The sapodilla is the only species in the genus *Manilkara*. It is native to Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, and from there it spread to other countries. In Israel, it has been planted primarily at sites that specialize in tropical fruits, including some specimens in the experimental plot for exotic fruit trees at the Weizmann Institute.

Signs
8–7

Common name: Sausage Tree
Hebrew name: קיגליה מנוצה kigelia menutza
Scientific name: *Kigelia pinnata*
Arabic name: مشطره
Family: *Bignoniaceae*

SAUSAGE TREE

A tree with a thick, upright trunk. The sausage tree has smooth gray bark, an oval or round shape, and pinnate leaves with large dark leaflets. It is semi-deciduous: It sheds its leaves only during very dry summers or unusually harsh winters.

In the spring and summer, large flowers develop on long, hanging stems that can be several meters in length. The flowers grow out perpendicular to the stems; their shape is characteristic of the *Bignoniaceae* family – tubular and funnel-like. The flowers open only at night, when they attract insects and bats. The fruits are immense and unusual: Light brown and shaped like loaves of bread or large sausages, they too are suspended from the long stems.

The sausage tree is the only species in its genus. It grows throughout tropical and subtropical Africa, where it provides food for elephants, giraffes, monkeys and pigs. Native Africans also benefit from the tree – canoe-like boats are made from the trunks, a beer-like beverage is prepared from the fruit, and other parts of the tree are used in folk medicine.

Signs
4–23

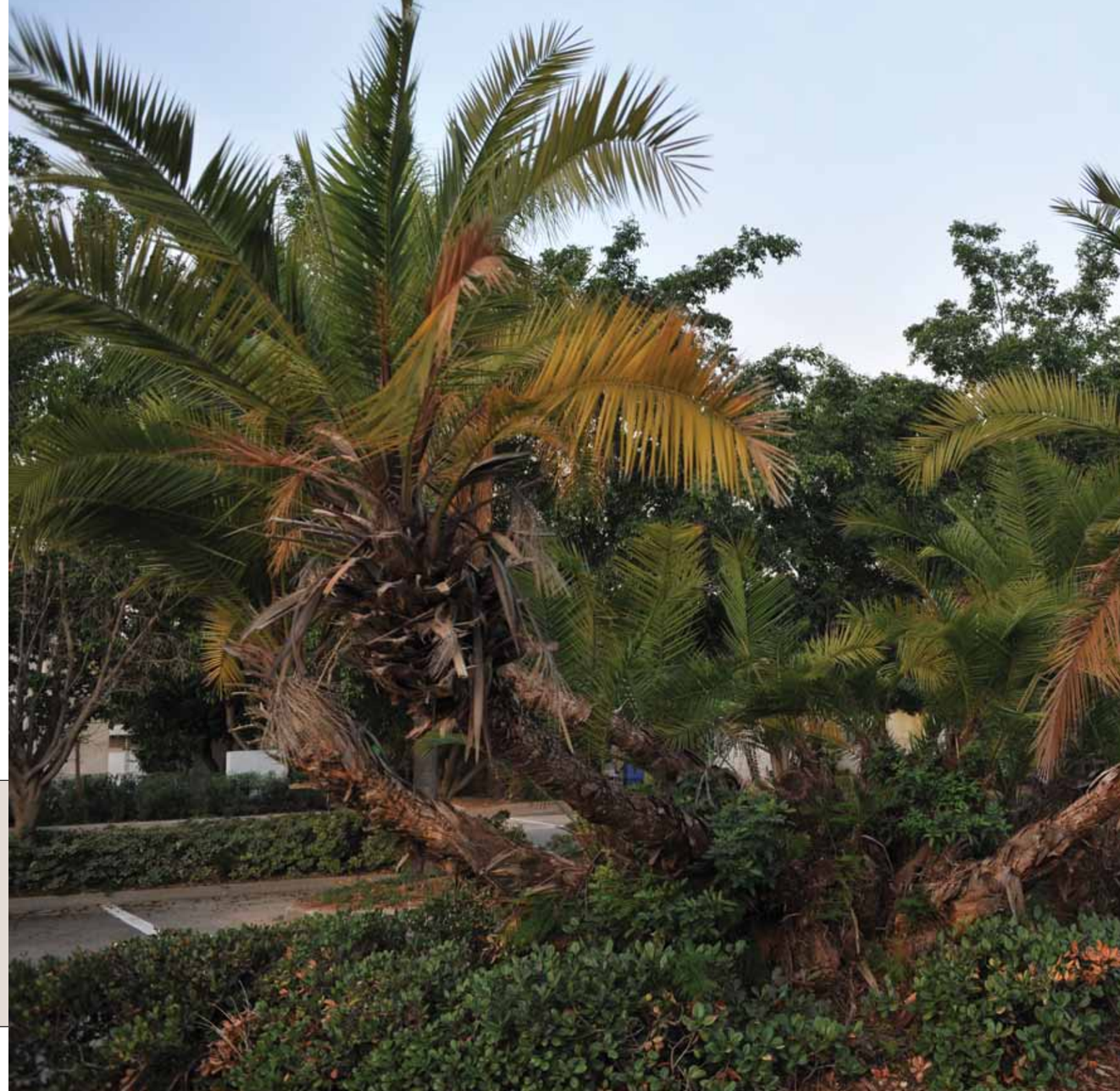
Common name: Senegal Date Palm
Hebrew name: תמר נטוי tamar natu'i
Scientific name: *Phoenix reclinata*
Arabic name: نخيل السنغال
Family: *Arecaceae (Palmae)*

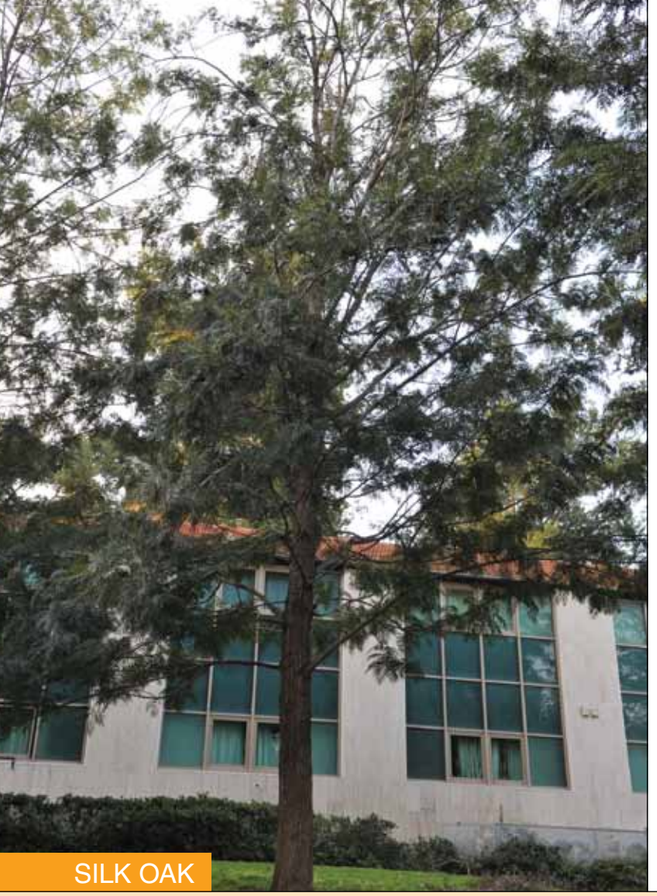
SENEGAL DATE PALM

A palm with multiple trunks. The gray trunks that grow in a group from a single base are relatively thin and curved, creating a unique sculptural profile. At the top of each trunk is a crown of deep green, stiff, curved pinnate fronds, whose color differentiates them from the grayish leaves of the common date palm.

Male and female inflorescences (flower clusters) develop on separate trees. Female trees go on to produce branched clusters of edible, elongated fruits that are orange-brown when ripe. In the tree's native regions, both the fruit and the heart of the trunk are eaten.

The Senegal date palm is one of approximately 15 species in the genus *Phoenix*. This species grows wild throughout tropical Africa, from Senegal to South Africa. It can be found growing in various environments, from sea level to mountainous regions. As an ornamental plant, it is grown in warm countries for its sculptural appearance. Mature specimens of the Senegal date palm are rare in Israel.





Signs
2–6
9–1

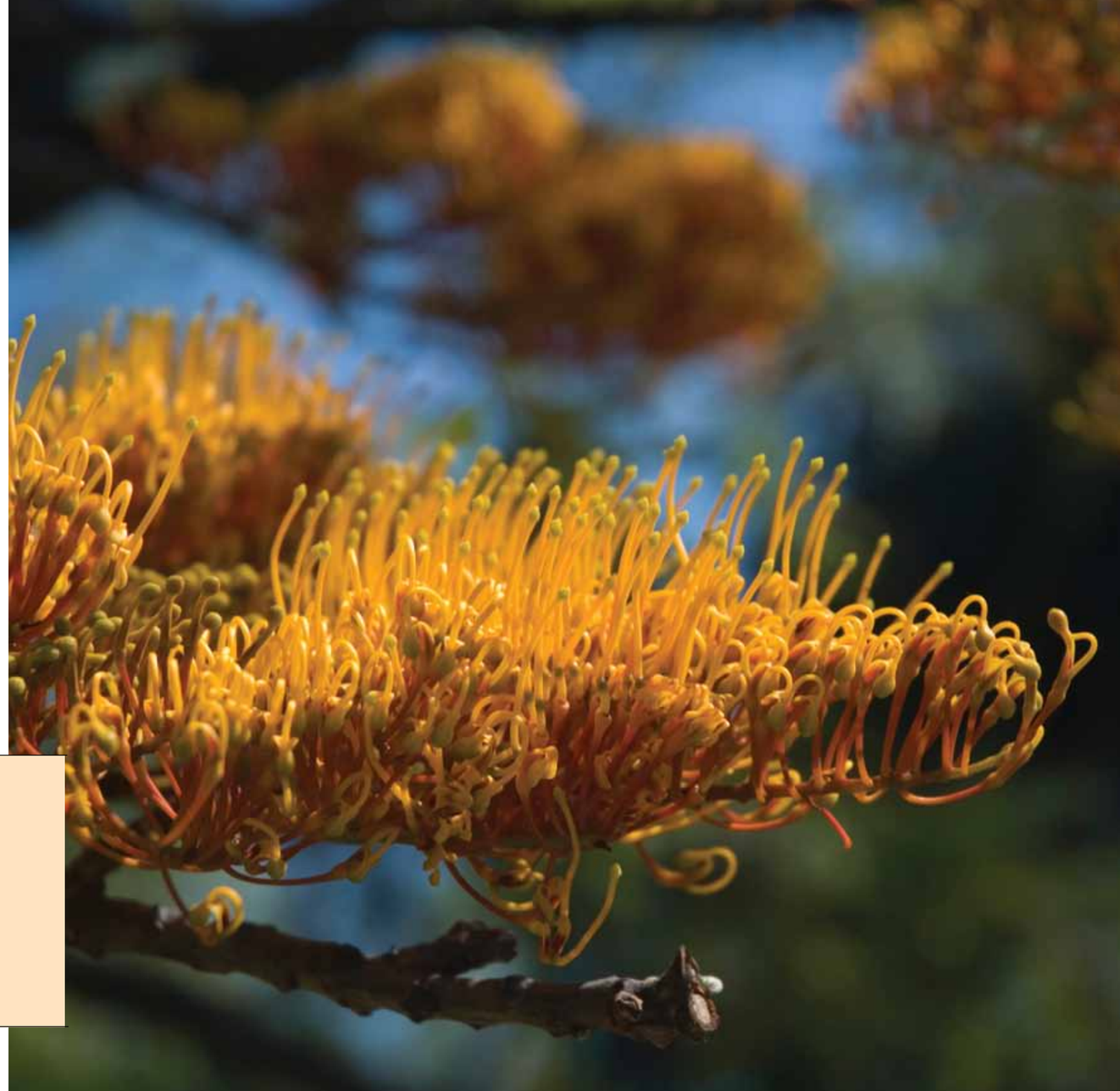
Common name: Silk Oak
Hebrew name: גרווילאה חסונה grevillea chasona
Scientific name: *Grevillea robusta*
Arabic name: غرويلا شامخه
Family: *Proteaceae*

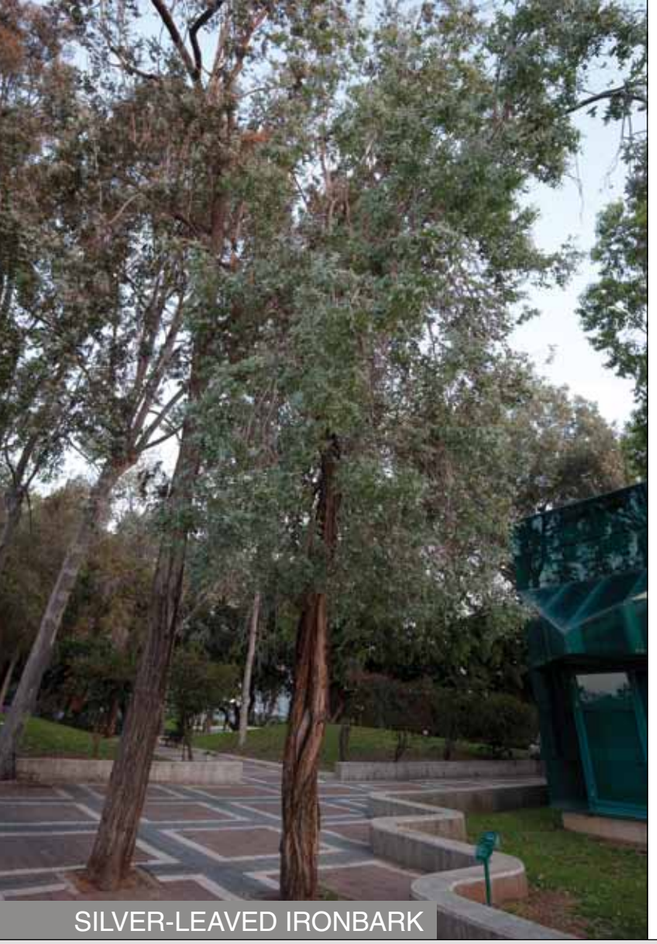
SILK OAK

A tall, narrow tree notable for its attractive foliage and unique blooms. The trunk is straight and upright, and it extends to the top of the tree. The leaves are pinnate with elongated leaflets, which are, in turn, divided into narrow lobes reminiscent of fern fronds. The underside of the leaf is light gray, tinting the foliage with an olive hue.

In spring, golden-orange, brush-like inflorescences (flower clusters) develop on the tree. The flowers are succeeded by clusters of brown fruit, each equipped with an elongated "tail" containing one or two winged seeds.

The tree belongs to the *Proteaceae* family, one of the most ancient families of flowering plants. The genus *Grevillea* contains a large number of species, all native to Australia, and this tree the is largest of them. In the past, its timber was used for carpentry, but today it is protected in its native region and logging it is illegal. In Israel, it has long been grown as an ornamental tree, one of the first imported along with the waves of Zionist immigration to Israel. It grows successfully in most areas of the country and is used along boulevards as well as for screening and garden borders.





Signs
4–3

Common name: Silver-Leaved Ironbark
Hebrew name: איקליפטוס שחור-קליפה
eikalyptus sh'chor klipa
Scientific name: *Eucalyptus melanophloia*
Arabic name: اوكالبتوس اسود القشرة (كينا)
Family: *Myrtaceae*

SILVER-LEAVED IRONBARK

A medium-sized tree that stands out for its unusual combination of very dark bark and silvery-gray foliage. The trunk is upright and relatively thin, rising straight up, all the way to the crown. The trunk and branches are covered in a permanent, deeply fissured, blackish bark. The fissures reveal glimpses of the reddish-brown wood underneath. The leaves are heart- or egg-shaped, keep their shape in maturity, and are aligned (without petioles – leafstalks) in pairs on the branches. Their silvery-blue or gray tones are noticeable from a distance.

The small white summer blooms do not stand out. The fruits are small and mug-shaped.

The silver-leaved ironbark grows wild in vast areas of eastern Australia. It is drought tolerant and very suitable for afforestation. Due to its attractive appearance, it can be used as an ornamental tree in parks and gardens. The silver-leaved ironbark has been in Israel for a long time, but despite its success in various parts of the country, it is not well known.

Signs
4–18

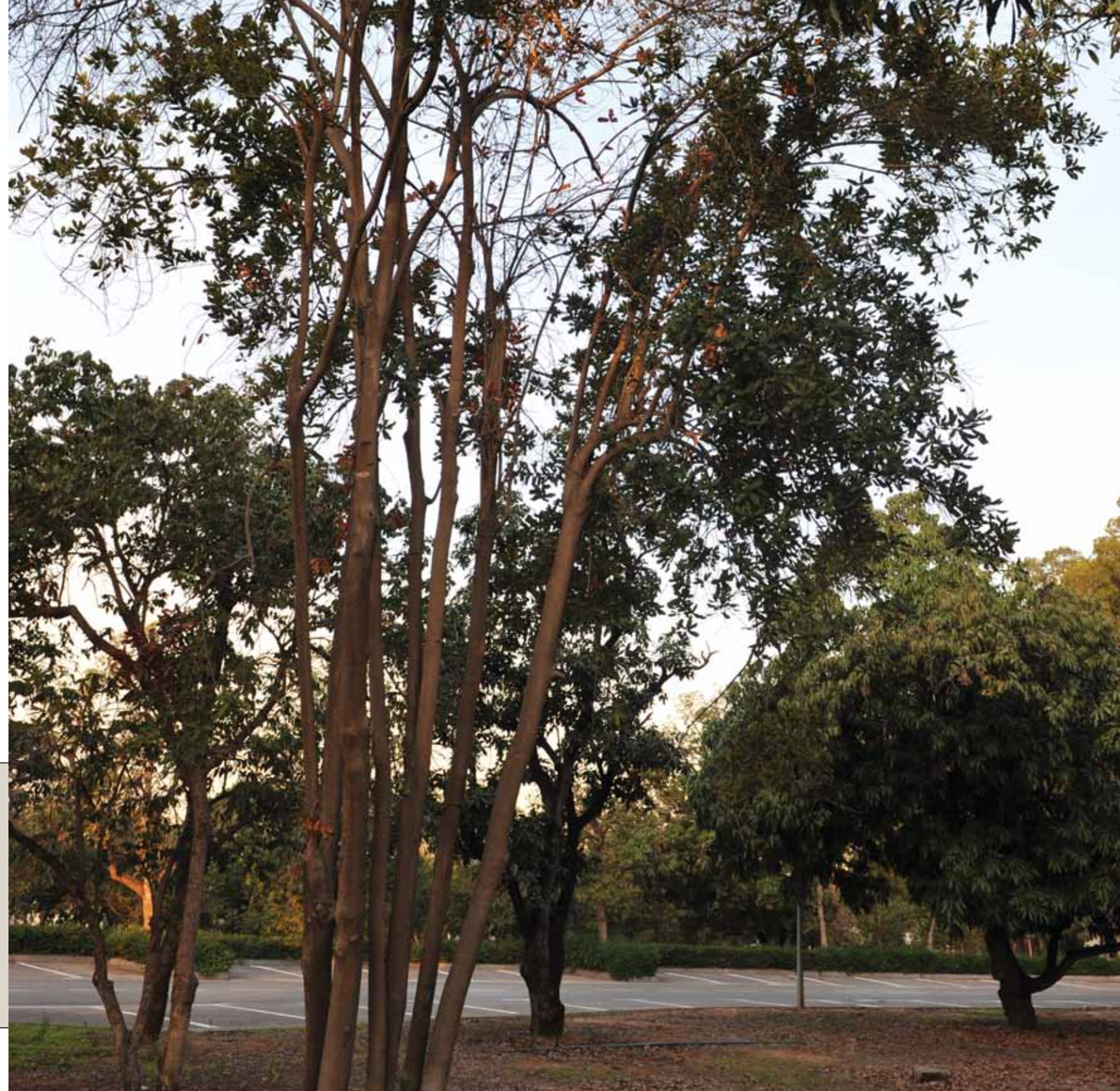
Common name: Smooth-Shell Macadamia Nut, Queensland Nut
Hebrew name: מקדמיה תמימה macadamia tmima
Scientific name: *Macadamia integrifolia*
Arabic name: مقداميا
Family: *Proteaceae*

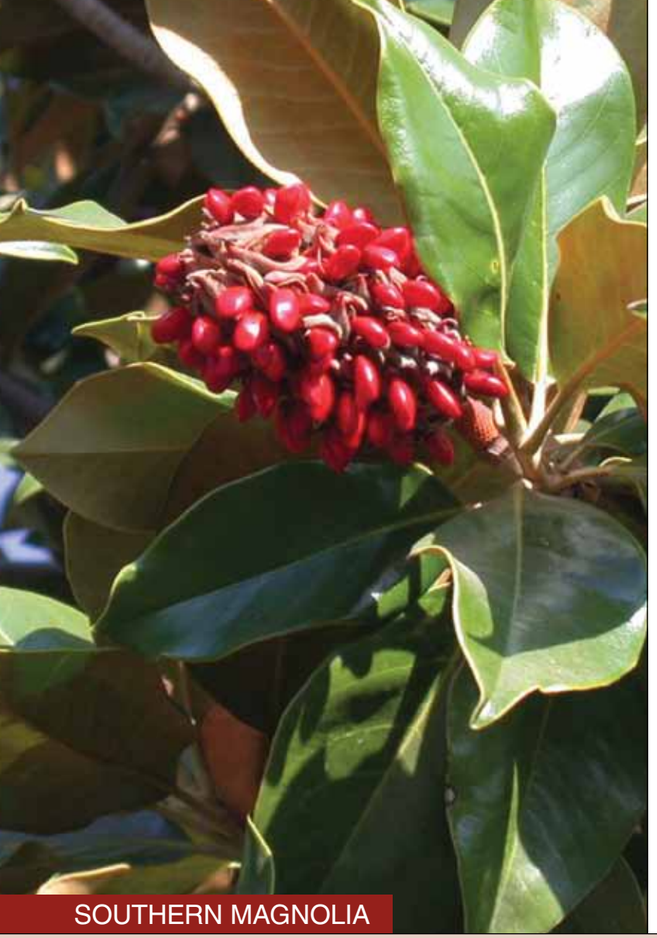
SMOOTH-SHELL MACADAMIA NUT

An evergreen tree that yields rich nuts. The leaves are usually arranged in whorls of three growing from a single point on the branch. The mature leaves are long and stiff, with edges that are only slightly serrated or not serrated (hence the scientific name, *integrifolia*: intact leaves).

In spring, attractive inflorescences (clusters) of small white flowers develop, some of which are fertilized to produce globular fruits with a green husk that splits when ripe. Inside is a nut with a particularly hard shell and a seed or two. Prized for their buttery taste, macadamias have a high nutritional value; their oils are often used in cosmetics.

There are nine species in the genus *Macadamia*, most of them from Australia, but only the fruits of the *Macadamia integrifolia* and the *Macadamia tetraphylla* are edible – the rest are poisonous. Commercial agricultural production of the macadamia began in the 19th century, and it is thought to be the only agricultural crop that originated in Australia. The macadamia was introduced into Israel in the 1950s; some of the first trees were planted in the experimental plot on the grounds of the Weizmann Institute.





Signs
2–1

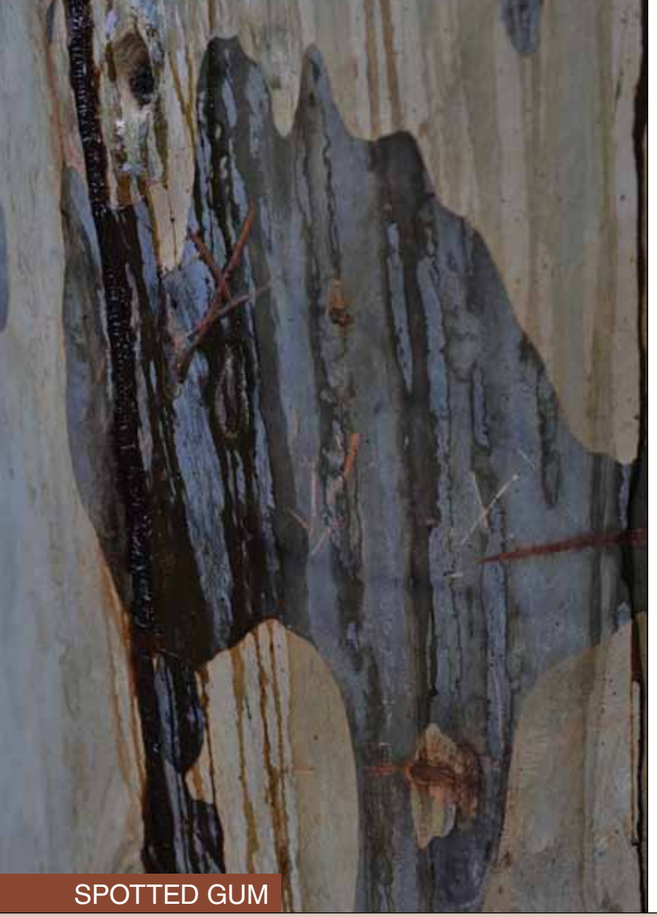
Common name: Southern Magnolia, Bull Bay
Hebrew name: מגנוליה גדולת-פרחים
magnolia gdolat-prachim
Scientific name: *Magnolia grandiflora*
Arabic name: مغنوليا كبيرة الزهر
Family: *Magnoliaceae*

SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA

A very impressive tree with huge white flowers. In its native regions in the east and south of the United States, the southern magnolia reaches great heights, but in Israel, it does not fulfill its potential. Its large, glossy leaves are brownish on the underside; and its unique flowers are very large, firm and fragrant. The fruits resemble fuzzy cones with bright red seeds protruding from them.

The genus *Magnolia* belongs to one of the first families of flowering plants to appear on Earth; this can be seen in the structure of the flower and fruit. There are a number of additional *Magnolia* species, all of which have elegant flowers and most of which are deciduous.

Due to its lavish appearance and wide distribution in its native region, it is often used as a symbol of the American South, especially in books and films. The southern magnolia is resilient in cold weather but suffers in excessive heat and drought, so it is mainly suitable for the cooler regions of Israel.



Signs
4–4

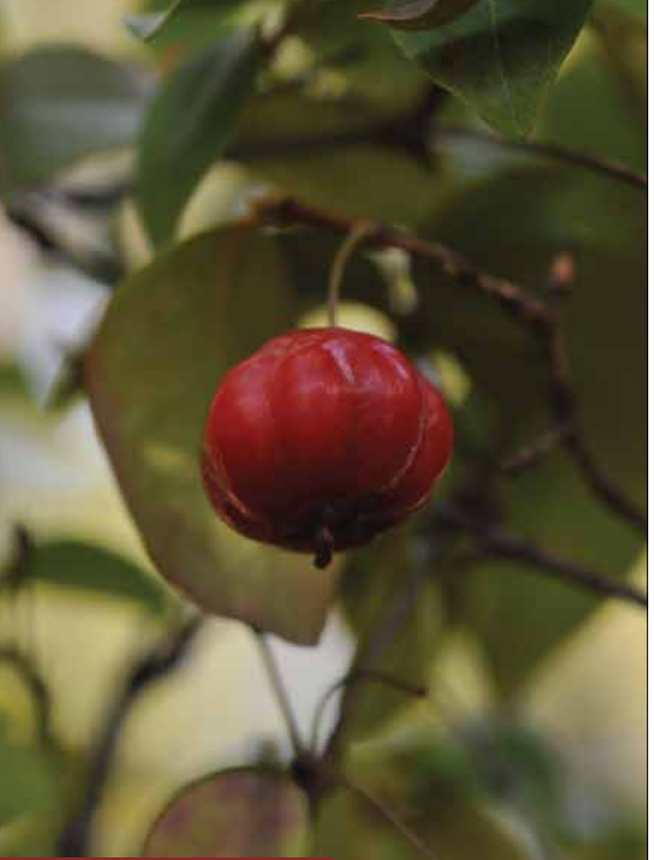
Common name: Spotted Gum
Hebrew name: איקליפטוס מוכתם eikalyptus muchtam
Scientific name: *Eucalyptus (Corymbia) maculata*
Arabic name: كينا
Family: *Myrtaceae*

SPOTTED GUM

A large, impressive tree known for its tall, upright trunk. The trunk is smooth, with patches in shades of yellowish-cream, gray and brown, which appear in progression as pieces of bark peel off from time to time. The green foliage is concentrated in the tree's rounded crown. The leaves of the juvenile phase are elliptical, while mature leaves are elongated, slightly bowed and have pointed tips. In Australia, where the tree is native, the leaves are eaten by koalas.

The small white flowers are arranged in inflorescences (flower clusters) that attract honeybees and nectar-eating birds. The fruits are shaped like small urns.

The spotted gum belongs to a new genus, *Corymbia*, which was recently found to be distinct from the genus *Eucalyptus*. In its native region of southeast Australia and throughout the entire continent, the tree is used for afforestation, and its substantial trunk and hard timber are used in carpentry. In Israel, it is rare and was generally planted experimentally, including on the grounds of the Weizmann Institute.



Signs
4–20
6–5

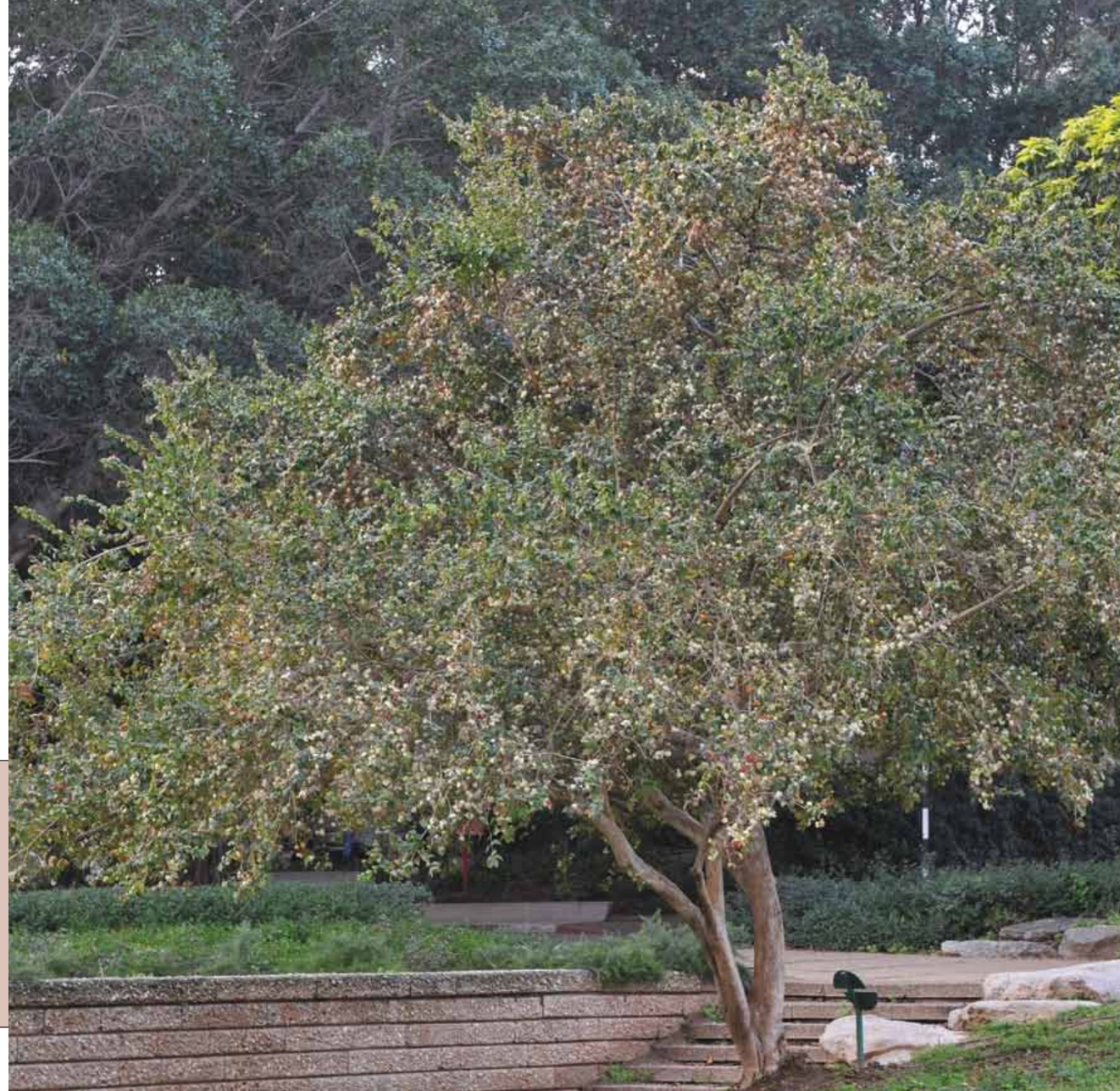
Common name: Surinam Cherry
Hebrew name: איגניית הפיטנגה igeniat ha'pitanga
Scientific name: *Eugenia uniflora*
Arabic name: يوجينية
Family: *Myrtaceae*

SURINAM CHERRY

A small tree or a large evergreen shrub, notable for its foliage and fruit. The relatively thin trunk branches from its base; mature trees have a mottled bark. The leaves are opposite – they emerge from the branches in pairs – and they are glossy and egg-shaped with pointed tips. The tree sprouts new growth mainly in spring, in shades of red or reddish brown. This is when the plant is at the height of its beauty.

In the spring, beautiful white flowers bloom among the leaves, similar in appearance to myrtle flowers. Round, flattened fruits develop from the flowers in the summer, and these turn dark red when ripe. Each fruit is a juicy berry with eight prominent ribs, containing one to three seeds. The ripe fruit is sweet-sour and has an unusual aftertaste.

The genus *Eugenia* has approximately 1,000 tropical species, mostly on the American continent. Botanists are still discovering new species. The Surinam cherry grows wild in Brazil and nearby countries, where it is also grown as a commercial agricultural crop. The tree was introduced into Israel in the 1920s where it is known by the name *pitango*.



Signs
9–13

Common name: Sycamore Fig
Hebrew name: פיקוס השקמה ficus ha'shikma
Scientific name: *Ficus sycomorus*
Arabic name: جميز
Family: *Moraceae*

"Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah: 'I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees'" (Amos 7:14)

SYCAMORE FIG

A large, impressive tree, one of the iconic features of the Israeli landscape. It has a solid trunk covered in pale bark; large primary branches emerge from the trunk diagonally. In young trees, the shape is rounded, but becomes more irregular as the tree matures, giving a unique, sculptural shape to each tree. Some but not all of the thick, wavy leaves are shed in winter.

Numerous round figs develop on the short branchlets that grow directly from the trunk and primary branches throughout the year, giving the tree an oddly attractive appearance. In Africa, the fruit is pollinated by tiny wasps, so that the fruit bears seeds. In Israel, the figs ripen either partially or completely without being pollinated, and so are seedless. It was common practice in the region to prick the figs to encourage ripening (traditionally called *blissat shikmim*). In warm valleys, parasitic wasps may invade the figs and spoil them.

The sycamore fig is native to sub-Saharan Africa; it spread to Egypt and the Near East in ancient times. In Egypt and its neighboring countries, it was customary to plant sycamore groves for fruit and timber, and remains of the trees, wood and fruit have been preserved in pharaohs' tombs. The sycamore is mentioned many times in the Bible, and its unique form adorned the hotter regions of the Land of Israel.

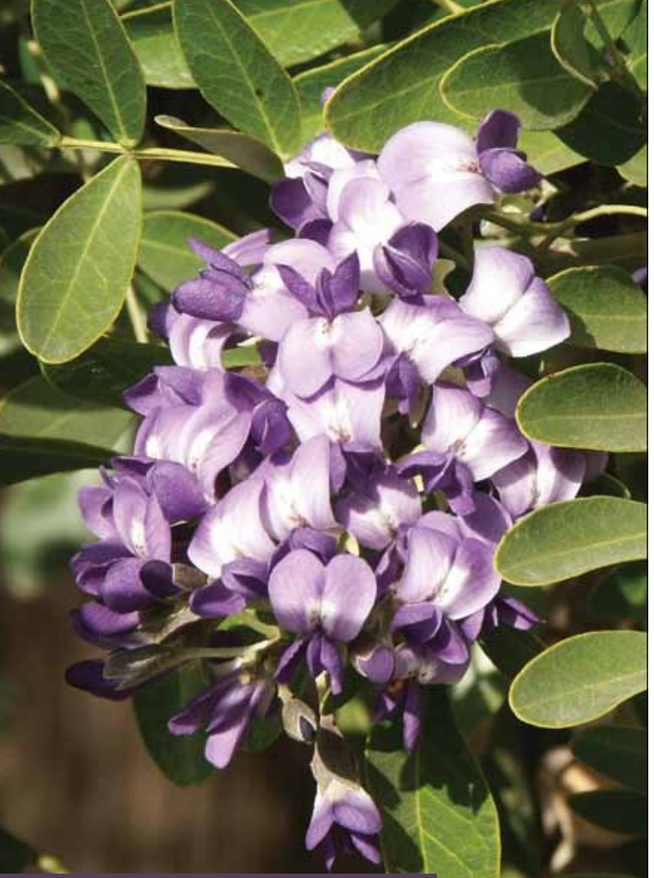
Young Sycamore
William Carlos Williams

I must tell you
this young tree
whose round and firm trunk
between the wet

pavement and the gutter
(where water
is trickling) rises
bodily

into the air with
one undulant
thrust half its height –
and then
dividing and waning
sending out
young branches on
all sides –
hung with cocoons
it thins
till nothing is left of it
but two

eccentric knotted
twigs
bending forward
hornlike at the top



Signs
5–7

Common name: Texas Mountain Laurel, Fountain Tree
Hebrew name: סופורה אמריקנית sophora amerikanit
Scientific name: *Sophora secundiflora*
(Calia secundiflora)
Arabic name: صفيراء المكسيك
Family: *Fabaceae (Papilionaceae)*

TEXAS MOUNTAIN LAUREL

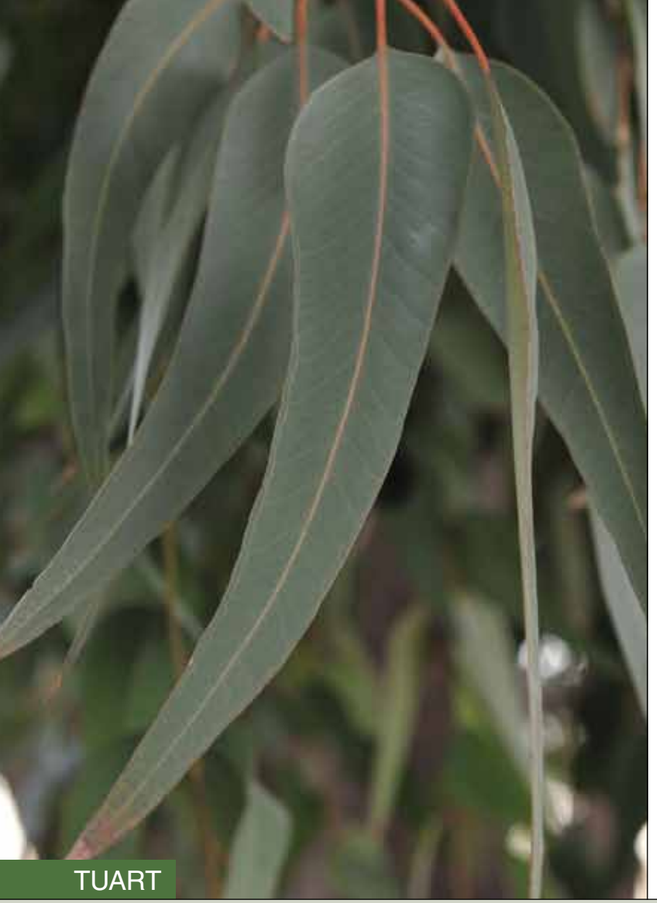
A small evergreen tree with a shrub-like structure, outstanding in its foliage and bloom. The Texas mountain laurel grows slowly, usually on several trunks. The crown is round and wide, with dense foliage that sometimes hides the trunk and branches. The leaves are pinnate with thick, dark, glossy oval leaflets reminiscent of the leaflets of the carob tree.

In late winter and spring, inflorescences (clusters) of purple-blue papilionaceous (butterfly-shaped) flowers emerge from the foliage. The attractive, strongly scented bloom is best appreciated up close. The flowers are replaced by woody pods that resemble silvery-brown peanuts and contain poisonous red seeds.

Recently, the tree has been removed from the genus *Sophora* and grouped, along with two other related species, in a new genus: *Calia*. The Texas mountain laurel is native to Texas, New Mexico and northern Mexico, and the tree's suitability to these arid regions is evident in its hardiness and resilience. In its native regions – as well as in Israel – the tree is used as a barrier along highways, for covering slopes or as an ornamental tree.

Daphne
Edna St. Vincent Millet

Why do you follow me?–
Any moment I can be
Nothing but a laurel-tree.
Any moment of the chase
I can leave you in my place
A pink bough for your embrace.
Yet if over hill and hollow
Still it is your will to follow,
I am off; – to heel, Apollo!



Signs
5–19

Common name: Tuart
Hebrew name: איקליפטוס מסמרי eikalyptus massmeri
Scientific name: *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*
Arabic name: اوكالبتوس مسماري (كينا)
Family: *Myrtaceae*

TUART

A very large evergreen tree, known for the dark, permanent, fissured bark covering the trunk and all of the branches. The trunk can be upright or tilted, and it occasionally splits into multiple trunks. Its "dress" of foliage may cover the tree almost all the way to its base with leaves that are stiff, elongated and pointed.

The operculum that encloses the developing flowers has a unique shape that enables easy species identification. These are relatively large, and they grow in stemless clusters on branchlets. They are shaped like a nail with a wide head.

In Israel, the tree blooms in autumn, after which the white flowers are replaced by woody, bell-shaped fruits.

The tuart grows wild on limestone soils in a limited area of southwestern Australia. In the past it was heavily logged, and its hard timber was used to build rail cars and boats, but its reduced population led to actions to protect the tree and limit its logging. Due to its resilience and durability, the tuart is commonly used throughout the world for afforestation, and in Israel it is the second most common *Eucalyptus* species, after the river red gum.

Signs
6–10

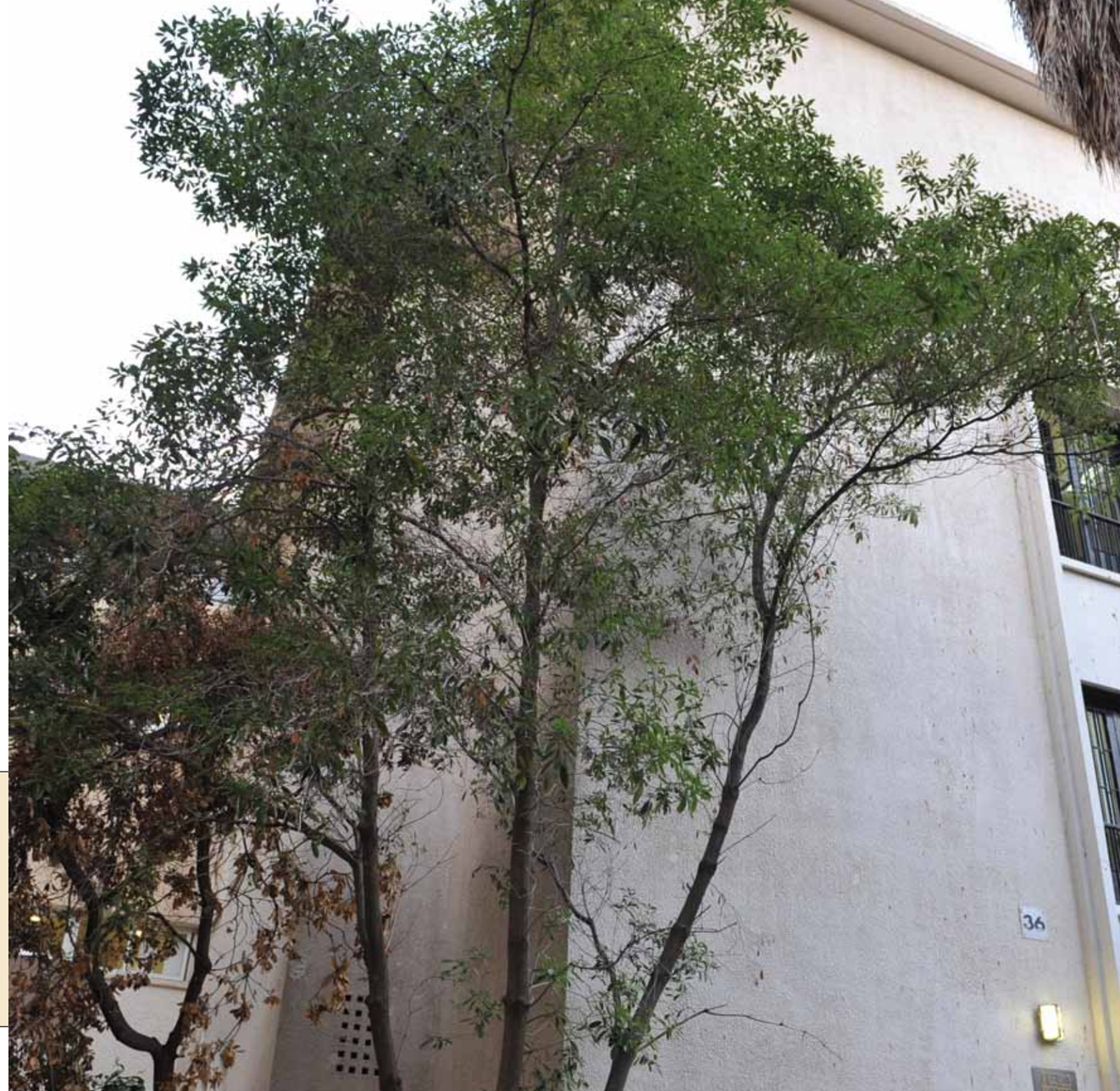
Common name: Victorian Box, Native Daphne
Hebrew name: פיטוספורום גלוני pittosporum galoni
Scientific name: *Pittosporum undulatum*
Arabic name: حبض متموج
Family: *Pittosporaceae*

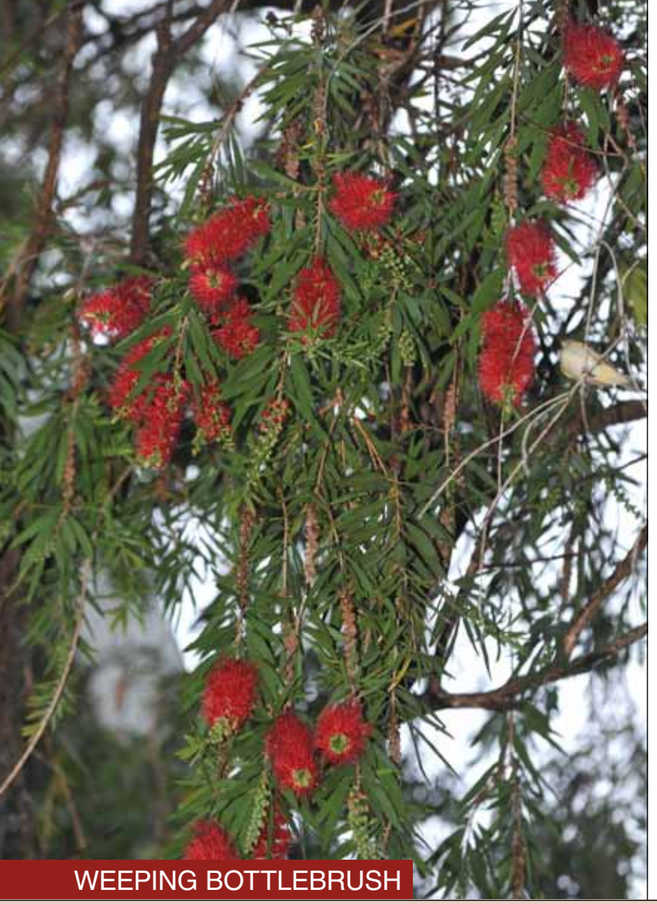
VICTORIAN BOX

A small- to medium-sized evergreen tree, with a relatively thin trunk that is usually split near the bottom. Its silhouette starts out narrow, rounding out as the tree matures. Its leaves are soft, elongated, pointed and glossy green, and they have undulating edges.

When the tree blooms in spring, umbellate (umbrella-like) terminal clusters of small fragrant, bell-shaped, five-petaled, white flowers develop. In autumn, after the flowers disappear, hard, globular, bright orange fruits decorate the tree; they contain a sticky resin that holds the seeds.

There are approximately 200 species in the *Pittosporum* genus. The *Pittosporum undulatum* grows wild in the humid areas of eastern Australia and from there has been carried to gardens throughout the world. Because it is very resilient and adaptable to a variety of conditions, it is grown both as a tree and as a shrub. As a modest tree, it is suitable for planting next to buildings and in courtyards and patios. It has been grown in Israel for a long time and can be found today in older gardens.





Signs
2–3

Common name: Weeping Bottlebrush
Hebrew name: קליסטמון הנצרים callistemon hanetzarim
Scientific name: *Callistemon viminalis*
Arabic name: كلستوم الاسديه
Family: *Myrtaceae*

WEEPING BOTTLEBRUSH

A small, charming, flowering tree. The weeping bottlebrush has a gray, fissured trunk, an open appearance and drooping branches. Its pale green leaves are narrow and elongated.

The weeping bottlebrush is at the height of its beauty in spring, when terminal clusters of many-stamened flowers resembling bright red bottlebrushes hang from the ends of the branches. The term *Callistemon* in its scientific and Hebrew names comes from the Greek for "beautiful stamens." The unique bloom, which lasts into the summer, attracts small, nectar-feeding sunbirds. The inflorescence (flower cluster) is replaced by chains of woody, nearly spherical capsules that hang like chains of beads on the branches for several years.

Like other *Callistemon* species, the weeping bottlebrush is native to Australia. The word *netzarim* (canes) in its Hebrew name hints at the use of its thin, flexible branches. It is hardy in hot, dry conditions, in various soils and near shorelines, and it is water-efficient. These traits, as well as its charming appearance, have made the weeping bottlebrush a long-time favorite in the landscaping of Israeli parks.

Signs
4–6

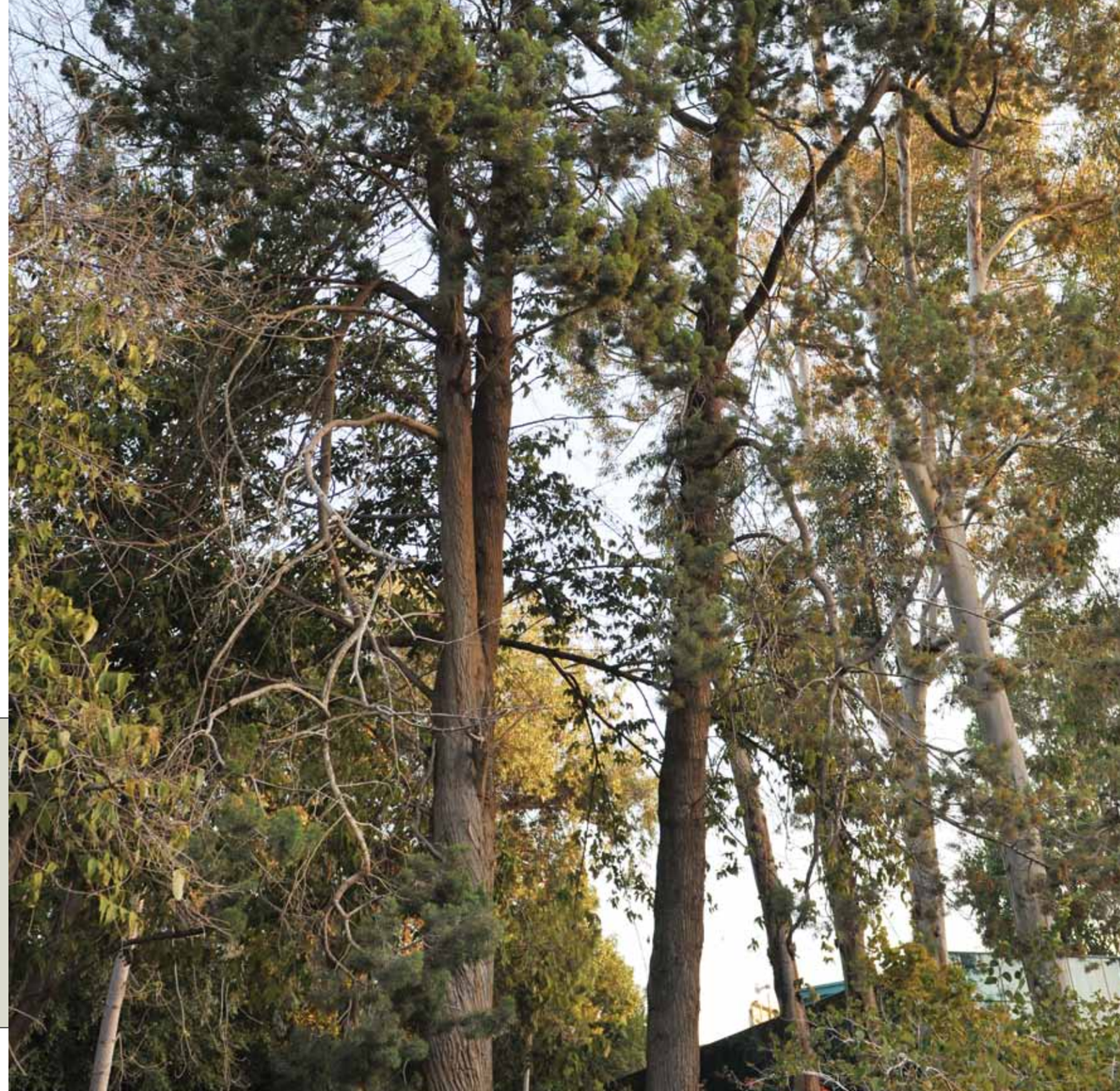
Common name: White Cypress-Pine
Hebrew name: קליטריס כחלחל callitris k'chalchal
Scientific name: *Callitris columellaris (glaucophylla) (huegelii)*
Arabic name: سندروس زرقاوي
Family: *Cupressaceae*

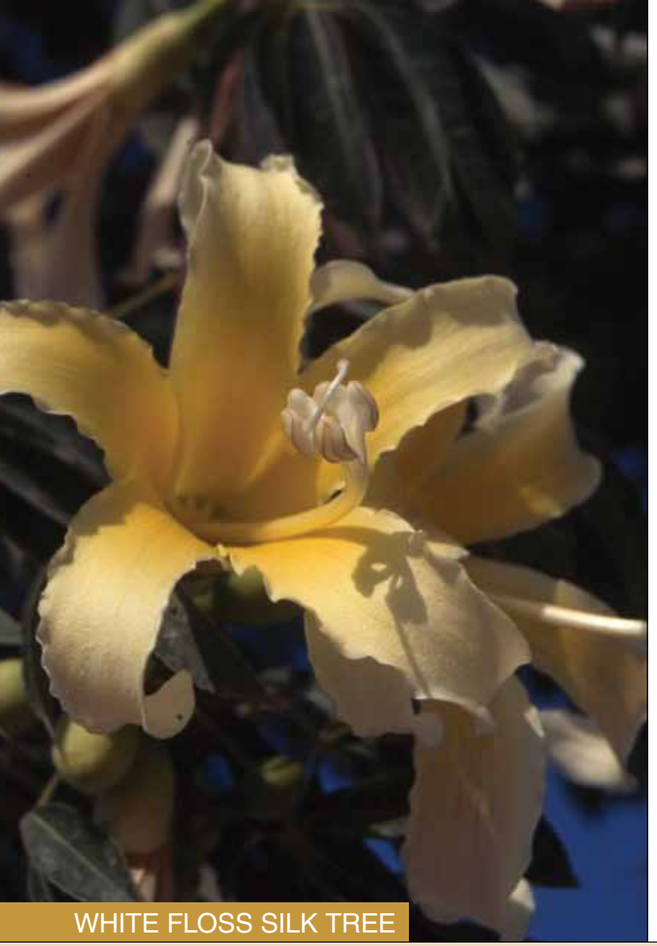
WHITE CYPRESS-PINE

A coniferous tree that looks like a cypress, with delicate foliage. The white cypress-pine has a substantial trunk that is upright or tilted and gray-brown bark that is diagonally fissured, revealing pinkish wood underneath. The bluish-gray or green foliage forms round clumps at the branch ends, and the tiny scaled leaves are characteristic of the genus *Callitris* and the family *Cupressaceae*.

The bloom is small and made up of separate male and female flowers. The female flowers ripen into small spherical cones that open like a flower into six triangular valves: three large and three small. The cones darken and become woody and, when they open, release tiny winged seeds. These cones may remain on the tree for many years after opening.

There are 15 species in the genus *Callitris*, all native to Australia and New Caledonia. The white cypress-pine grows in a number of regions of Australia, and its separate populations are distinguished from one another by the color of their foliage and the size of their cones. In the past, the different populations were thought to be separate species, but today they are all classified as white cypress-pine. The tree's wood is hard and attractive, and is used in furniture and wood paneling. *Callitris* species were introduced to Israel for the purpose of afforestation and as ornamental trees, but they remain quite rare.





Signs
9–11

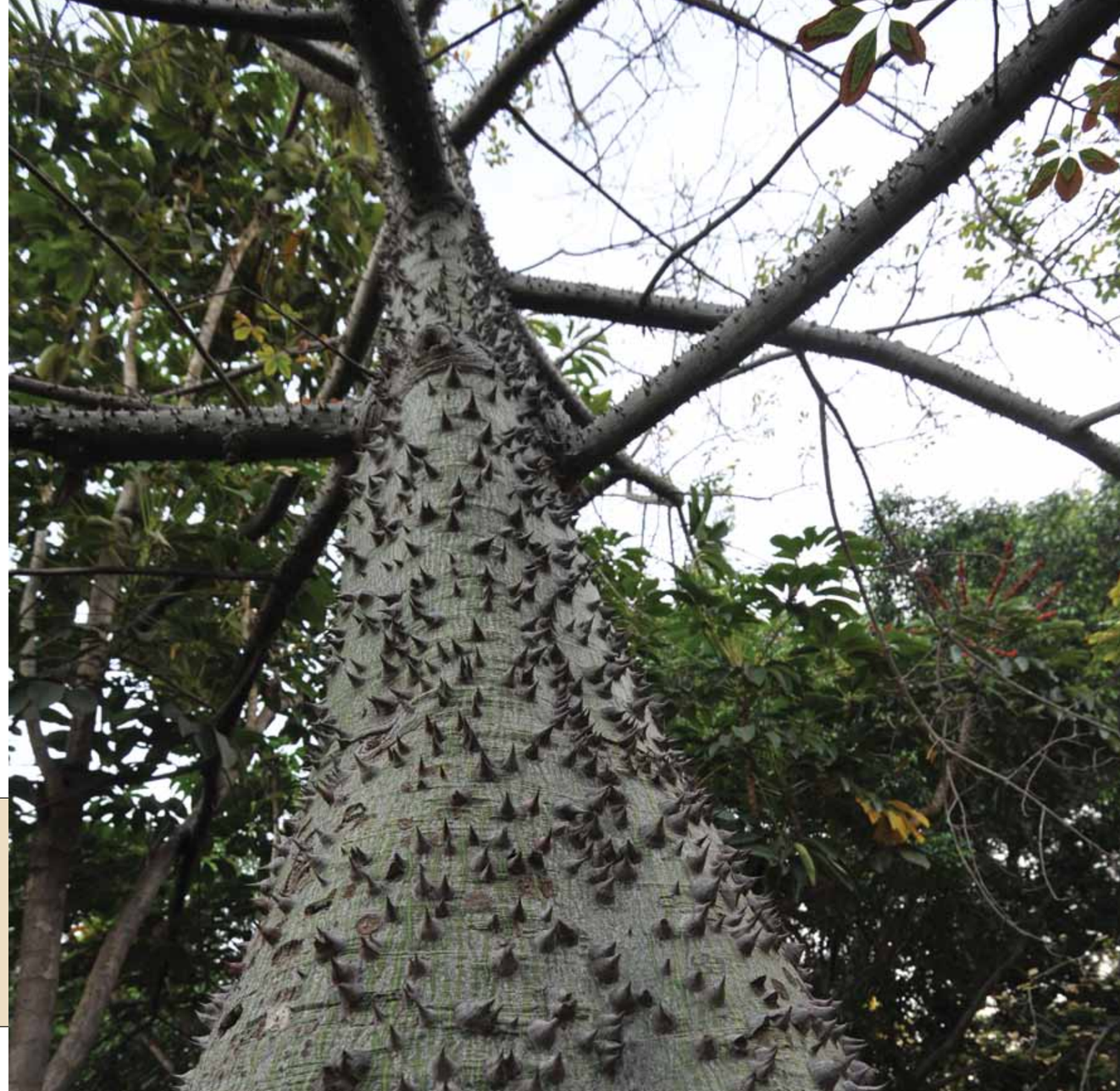
Common name: White Floss Silk Tree
Hebrew name: כוריזיה בקבוקית corisia bakbukit
Scientific name: *Chorisia insignis*
Arabic name: سيبا
Family: *Bombacaceae*

WHITE FLOSS SILK TREE

A semi-deciduous tree; the appearance of its trunk and flowers is striking. The bottle-shaped gray trunk is the most distinctive part of the tree and the source of its popular name "drunken tree" (in Spanish: *palo borracho*, literally "drunken stick"). The trunk and the branches that extend from it horizontally are covered in sizable thorns. The leaves are palmate, composed of five to seven leaflets that grow out of a single point and resemble a hand.

Individual white floss silk trees can bloom in different periods: The yellowish-white flowers, composed of five narrow petals, may appear any time from summer to early winter. After the tree has blossomed, fruits in the shape of green capsules develop on the tree; the seeds inside are wrapped in a cocoon of silky white fiber. These fibers are used to stuff pillows and mattresses, as well as for rope-making. The tree's sap is used as an ingredient in a hallucinogenic drink.

The white floss silk tree is native to the subtropical regions of Peru and Argentina.



Signs
10–7

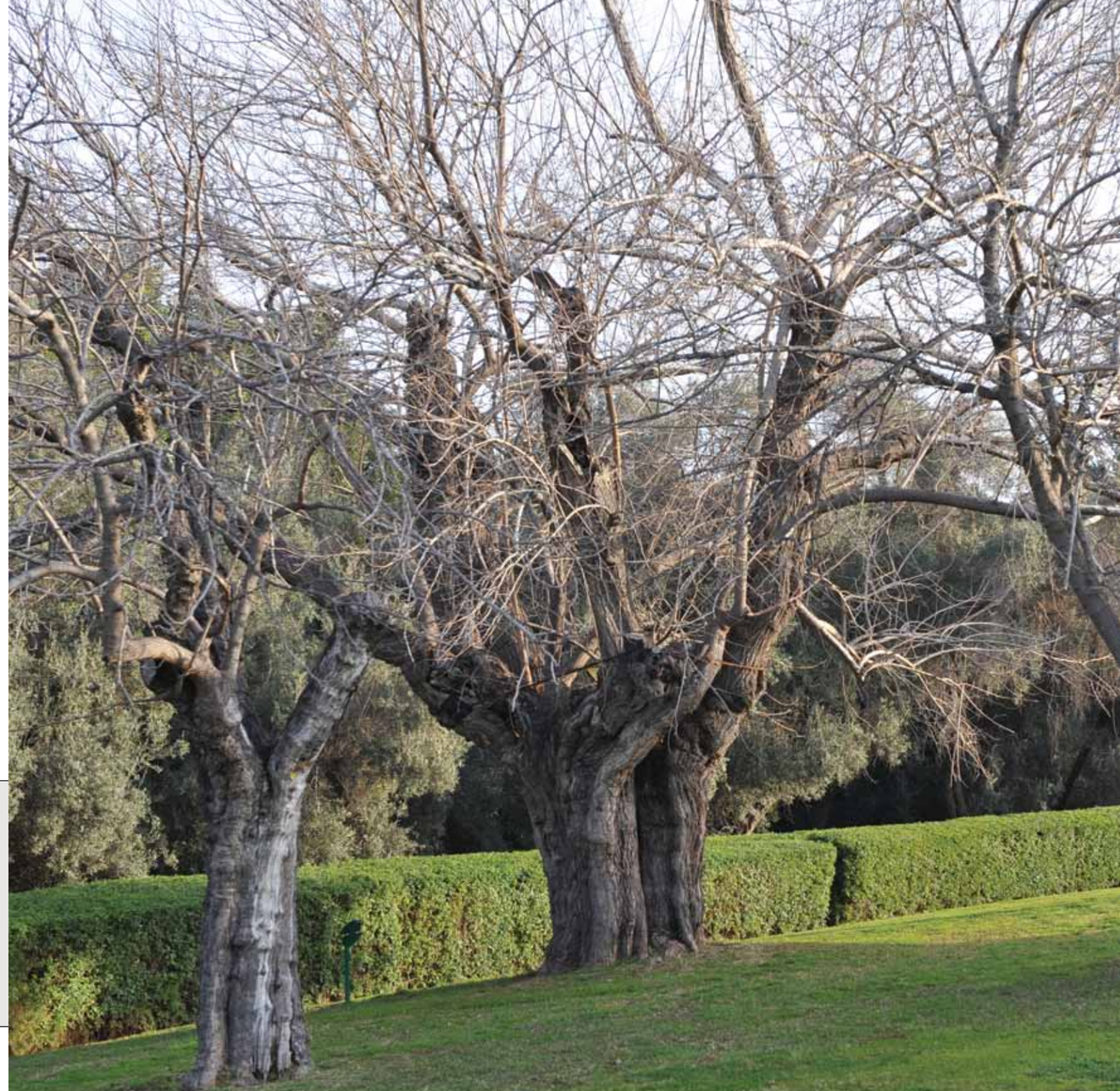
Common name: White Mulberry, Silkworm Mulberry
Hebrew name: תות לבן tut lavan
Scientific name: *Morus alba*
Arabic name: توت أبيض
Family: *Moraceae*

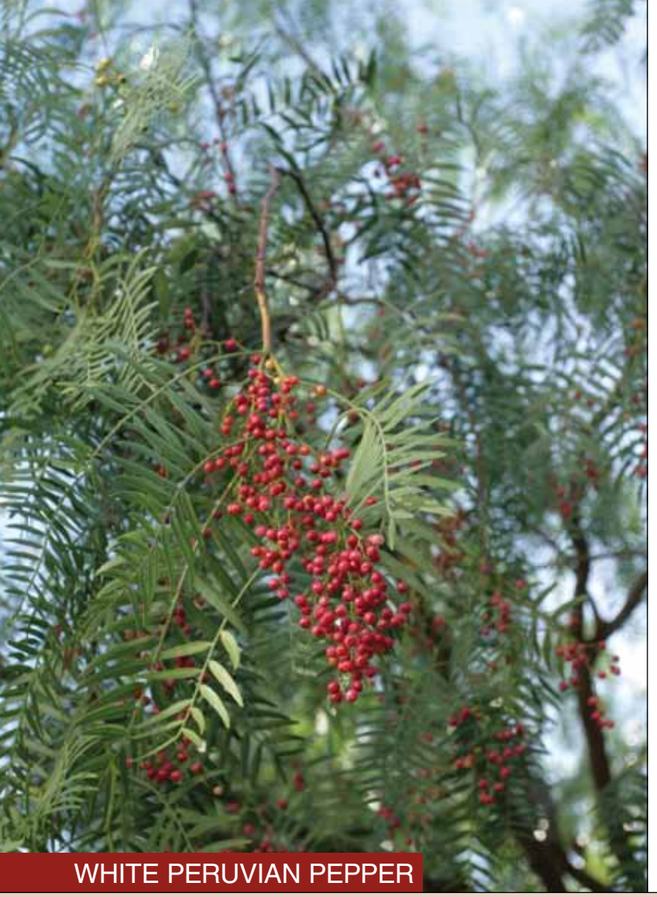
WHITE MULBERRY

A deciduous tree with a broad silhouette and a short trunk. Its large leaves are smooth on both sides; they are the preferred food of silkworms.

The white mulberry is dioecious (and is thus differentiated from the black mulberry) – its male and female flowers grow on separate trees. The male flowers catapult their pollen at the tremendous velocity of about half the speed of sound, and it is carried on the wind to the female flowers. After fertilization, the petals of the female flowers swell and grow together to form a compound fruit, consisting of many small, individual fruitlets, or drupes; it is considered a pseudo-berry. Despite the name, the fruit can be white, red or almost black.

The white mulberry was cultivated in China. Its ancient Hebrew name is identical to the tree's Persian name and is similar to its names in India (tuta, tuti). It was first introduced into Israel in the 16th century, and again in the 19th century, with the intention of establishing a silk industry here, but the attempts were unsuccessful.





Signs
10–13

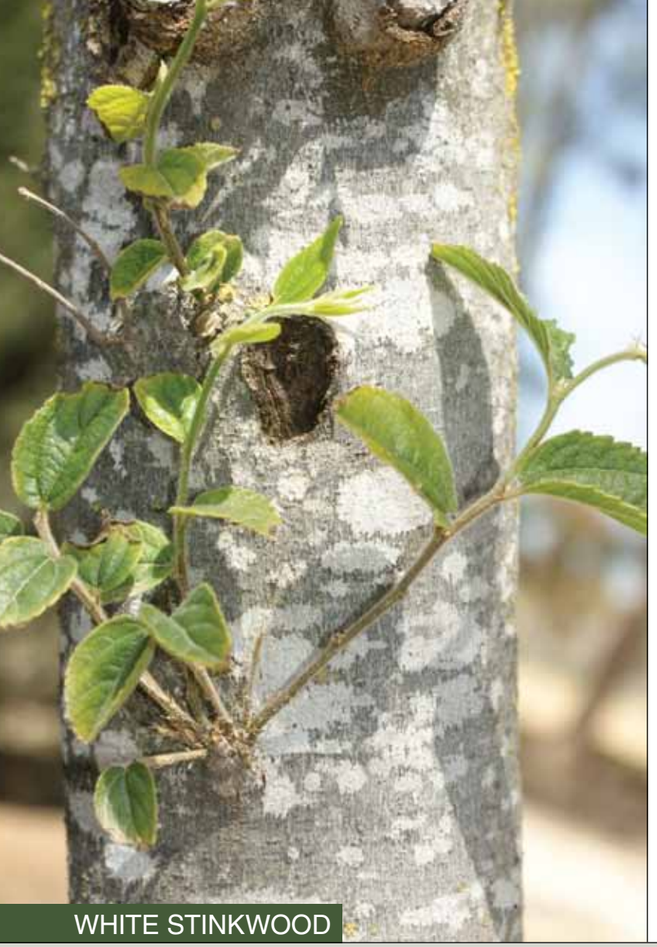
Common name: White Peruvian Pepper,
California Pepper Tree
Hebrew name: פלפלון בכות pilpelon bechut
Scientific name: *Schinus molle*
Arabic name: شكينوس رفيع
Family: *Anacardiaceae*

WHITE PERUVIAN PEPPER

A desert tree, notable for its weeping branches. It is usually medium-sized but can live for a long time and attain impressive dimensions. Its soft branches droop downwards, and long pinnate leaves with numerous pale, narrow leaflets hang from the branches, giving the tree its characteristic weeping look.

The Peruvian pepper is dioecious (trees are either male or female). In summer, panicles (branched clusters of flowers) with small yellowish-cream flowers hang from male trees, while on female trees, clusters of globular reddish fruit with a pungent odor develop. The fruits are reminiscent of peppercorns (even though they are not at all related), hence the common names. Native Americans use the fruit in food and drink, and in the past, it was a primary ingredient of the alcoholic drink *chicha*.

The Peruvian pepper typically grows in arid regions of the Peruvian Andes and the rest of South America. It flourishes at high altitudes and survives in extreme weather conditions. In Israel, too, the tree is suited to dry regions; old, large, impressive Peruvian pepper trees can be seen in the Negev and Arava regions.



Signs
5–9

Common name: White Stinkwood
Hebrew name: מיש אפריקני mayish africani
Scientific name: *Celtis africana*
Arabic name: ميس افريقي
Family: *Ulmaceae*

WHITE STINKWOOD

A deciduous tree with a straight trunk and long, arching branches. Its round shape is somewhat open in younger trees and becomes denser as the tree matures. The branches curve downwards; numerous leaves with non-symmetrical bases grow intermittently along the branches, a typical arrangement in the genus *Celtis*. The leaves are egg-shaped and their lobes contain three main veins, joined by a network of non-parallel veins.

In spring, as new leaves sprout, small greenish male and female flowers develop on the same tree in groups; these flowers are pollinated by bees. The tree's small round fruits, which turn black when ripe, are a favorite food of various birds.

The genus *Celtis* contains approximately 60 different species distributed among all the continents, mostly in the northern hemisphere. The white stinkwood grows wild in eastern and southern Africa. In the forests there, the tree grows to a considerable height, while in open areas its size is limited.

Signs
8–5

Common name: Yellow Poinciana, Yellow Flame
Hebrew name: שלטית מקומטת shiltit mekumetet
Scientific name: *Peltophorum dubium*
Arabic name: بلتوفورم مجعد
Family: *Fabaceae (Caesalpiniaceae)*

YELLOW POINCIANA

A large tree whose crown turns bright yellow when it is in bloom. The gray trunk is fissured at its base and smooth farther up. The branches grow out horizontally to form a wide, round shape. Its bipinnate (twice-compound) leaves are composed of small deep green leaflets that resemble the leaves of its relative – the royal poinciana.

The yellow poinciana is a semi-deciduous tree. In its native South America it is evergreen, but in colder regions (including most of Israel), it sheds its leaves. In summer, when it blooms in deep yellow, its radiant beauty is irresistible. Its flower petals are wrinkled. After it blooms, the tree becomes covered with a multitude of flat brown pods.

The yellow poinciana is strong and grows quickly; due to its striking bloom and the shade it provides, it is a common ornamental tree on boulevards and in gardens. In Israel, it was extensively used along boulevards and streets in the 1970s and 80s but, because its shallow roots can become aggressive when mature, today it is planted primarily in large gardens and parks.

The Weizmann Institute Logo: the Tree of Life

It is thought that the original drawing of the tree of life, which became the basis of the logo for the Daniel Sieff Research Institute (1934) and, after it, the Weizmann Institute, was the work of the German-Jewish architect Erich Mendelsohn, who planned, among other things, Weizmann House. He may have been assisted in the design of the lettering by the typographer Francesca Baruch.

In 1982, the logo was updated by Asher Oron, and in 1994, it received an additional update in the Institute's Graphics Department, led by Haya Yoskovitch. The official form of the logo used today was set by Sharon Murro and the staff of the Publications and Media Relations Department in 2001.

Weizmann Institute of Science

The Weizmann Institute of Science is one of the leading basic research institutions worldwide in all areas of the natural and exact sciences. Its 18 departments are organized into five faculties: Mathematics and Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Biology. In addition, there are the Feinberg Graduate School (the Institute's university branch) and the Davidson Institute of Science Education, the educational branch of the Institute.

Scientists from different disciplines come together on a campus that encourages interactions between them, and these encounters lead to fruitful collaborations between people working in wildly different fields. At any given moment on the Weizmann campus, some 1,200 research projects are being carried out on the cutting edge of science.

The Weizmann Institute grew out of the modest Daniel Sieff Research Institute, founded in 1934 by Israel and Rebecca Sieff of the United Kingdom in memory of their son. The driving force behind its establishment was the Institute's first President, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, a noted chemist who for years headed the Zionist movement and later became the first President of Israel. In 1949, in honor of Dr. Weizmann's 75th birthday, with the blessings of the Sieff family, the Institute was renamed and formally dedicated as the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Today's Weizmann Institute campus of more than 100 buildings sprawls over an area of 300 acres (1.2 sq km). About one-third of the Institute's budget is funded by the Israeli government. All the rest comes from research grants won by Institute scientists, donations and royalties.

Industrial applications, medications and diagnostic methods and more that were developed at the Institute improve the quality of life for millions of people.

Following his visit to the planned site of the Institute in 1933, Chaim Weizmann wrote, "…there was not a tree or blade of grass to adorn the vast courtyard ... and I had before my eyes the green lawns of English and American universities and scientific academies, and thought that it would be showing a lamentable lack of aesthetic feeling if we merely planked down the buildings and did nothing with the surroundings."

What the Tree Has
100 trees at the Weizmann Institute of Science

Dr. Chaim Weizmann's dream was fulfilled, thanks in large part to the efforts of his right-hand man, Meyer Weisgal, who held various positions at the Institute, including Chairman of the Workers' Committee (1954-1967) and President of the Institute (1967-1970). Weisgal constantly strove for the best for the Institute. Leading architects, including Arie Elhanani (1898-1985), were invited to design the buildings. Elhanani also played an important role in setting the picturesque character of the Institute.

Elhanani conceived the first master plan for the Weizmann Institute in 1947. Although this plan was never carried out, the Institute's buildings were constructed, in accordance with his proposal, in the style of "exhibition pavilions" along its boulevards. Yehiel Paldi, a landscape architect, who was head gardener at the Sieff Institute and the Weizmann Institute, was also involved in substantial parts of the Institute's landscape design. Landscape architect Shlomo Weinberg-Oren, along with Erich Mendelsohn, designed the Weizmann House garden.

In 1953, Lipa Yahalom and Dan Zur arrived at the Institute and brought with them an "Israeli" approach to landscape design. They insisted on continuity in the language of the design, still visible in the Institute's gardens today. Their visionary work later earned them an Israel Prize.

The character of the Institute's landscape was also influenced by the Experimental Agricultural Station (also called the Agricultural Research Station) on whose grounds the Sieff Institute was established in 1934. The founder and director of the station was Yitzhak Elazari Volcani, after whom today's Volcani Institute of Agricultural Research is named. The Volcani Institute carries on the tradition begun by the Experimental Agricultural Station. The station's staff, including Prof. Otto Warburg, Prof. Chanan Oppenheimer, Prof. Hillel Oppenheimer and Dr. Israel Gindel, planted a variety of unique subtropical fruit trees, including mango, avocado and others, on the Institute's grounds. Thanks to their work, many kinds of subtropical fruit flourish in Israel today.

Our Backs to the Cypresses
Lea Goldberg

Our backs are to the cypresses. We hide
the hills behind our homes
ashamed to see the stars
we rush into the rustling streets
lest our hearts become entangled
in open space.

And so we live
in closed rooms
and in the city outskirts strapped
with telephone and telegraph wires –
far from everything we innocently loved –
within time, beyond our selves.

Translated by Rachel Tzvia Back

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What the Tree Has / 100 trees at the Weizmann Institute of Science

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Nurit Hermon, Sima Kagan, Nissim Pines

www.thinkstockphotos.com

Special thanks to: Dr. Ron Milo, Danny Elmelich and Moni Ziv

Printing: AR printing

Give Me What the Tree Has by Natan Zach was published in *Israeli Poetry*: *A Contemporary Anthology.* Translations: Warren Bargad, Stanley F. Chyet, Indiana University Press, 1986

Pines by Lea Goldberg was published in *Selected Poetry and Drama*. Translated and introduced by Rachel Tzvia Back. New Milford, CT: Toby Press, 2005.

Ficus Tree by Dan Caspi was published in *Internal Medicine*, Yahdav, 1991. Translation by the author

A Recipe for Kumquat Jam by Lior Maayan was published in *Shirat Hamada*, an anthology from the creative writing competition for scientists in memory of Ofer Lider

Our Backs to the Cypresses by Lea Goldberg was published in Michael Kovner's *Childhood Landscapes*, Museum of Art, Ein Harod, 2007