



Signs
10-18

Common name: Date Palm
Hebrew name: תמר מצוי tamar matzu'i
Scientific name: *Phoenix dactylifera*
Arabic name: نخيل
Family: *Areaceae (Palmae)*

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon" (Psalms 92:12/13)

DATE PALM

A tall palm tree, one of the symbols of the desert. Its trunk is tall and straight, and it bears "scars" that are remnants of old leaves that have been shed or removed. Additional trunks may grow from the base of the main trunk. At the top of the trunks are crowns of large, stiff pinnate leaves. The bluish-gray leaves (palm fronds) are divided into leaflets with pointed tips.

The date palm is dioecious: large inflorescences (clusters) of male and female flowers develop on separate trees. In its natural habitat, the wind pollinates female trees, but this is done manually for cultivated trees. After the female tree blooms, clusters of elongated, cylindrical fruits appear, each enclosing a single seed. There are dozens of cultivars of edible

dates; the color of the fruit ranges from yellow to dark red.

The date palm grows wild throughout the Near East and North Africa and, as a fruit tree, has spread around the world. All parts of the tree are used by humans: the trunks for construction, the leaves for roofing, the fruit-bearing branches for brooms, and the seeds for medicinal purposes. The date palm is often mentioned in the Bible as an example of a multi-use plant. It is one of the seven species with which the Land of Israel is blessed, and the lulav – a closed date palm frond – is one of the four species used during Sukkot (the Feast of Tabernacles). The date palm also holds a place of honor in Christian and Muslim cultures.





DWARF ITALIAN CYPRESS

An ornamental garden cultivar of the common cypress. A coniferous, evergreen tree with scaly green leaves. Aside from its compact dimensions, it resembles the familiar Italian cypress in every way. It grows straight and narrow, like a pole, and its branches grow straight up, close to the trunk. Due to its narrow shape, it is likened to a totem pole.

The dwarf Italian cypress is a strong, fast-growing tree. It is water-efficient and hardy in a variety of conditions, though it is probably slightly more

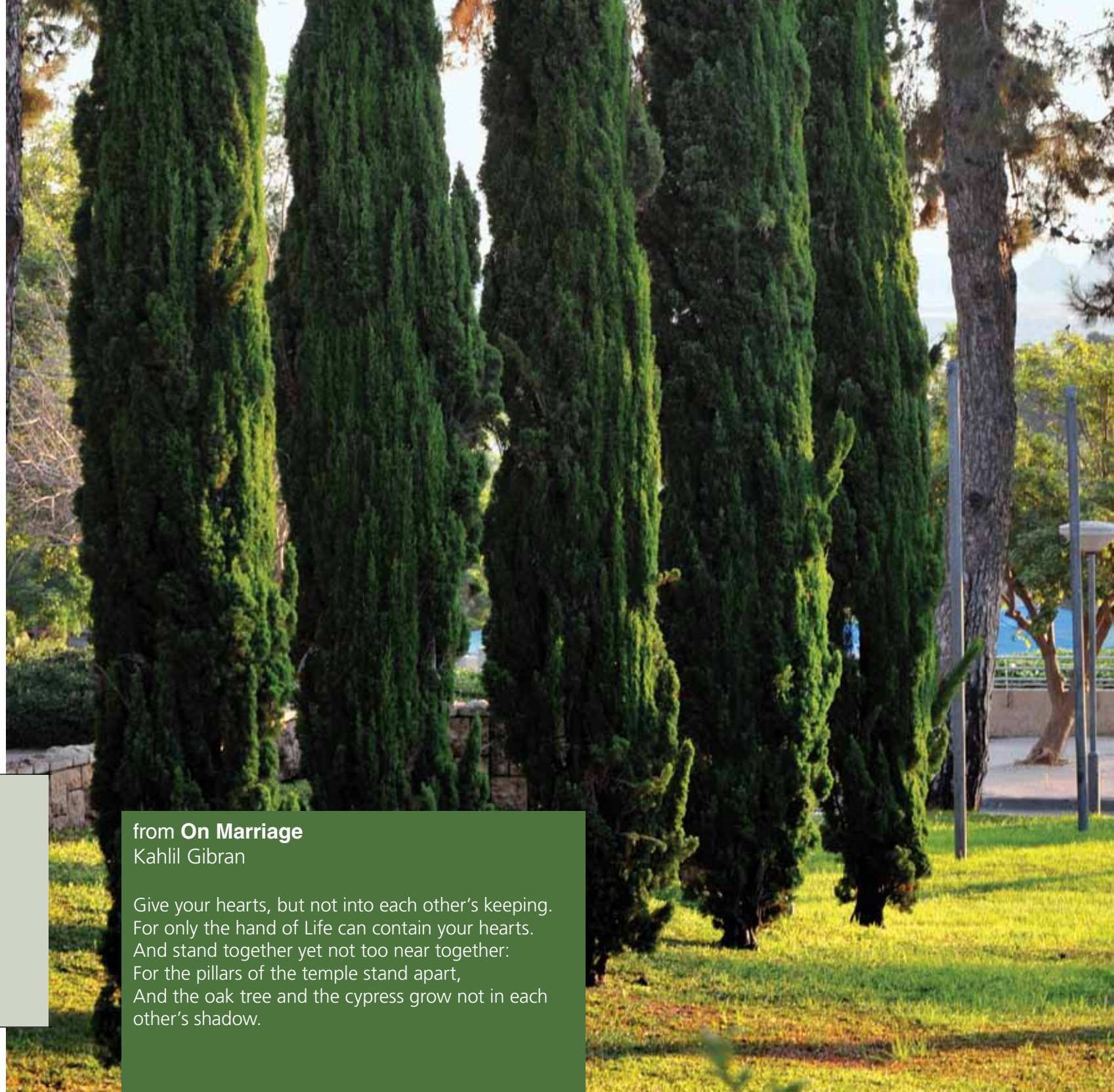
Signs
1-11

Common name: Dwarf Italian Cypress, Pencil Cypress
Hebrew name: 'טוטם' ברוש מצוי brosh matzui 'totem'
Scientific name: *Cupressus sempervirens* 'totem'
Arabic name: سرو
Family: *Cupressaceae*

"I am like an evergreen cypress" (Hosea 14:8/9)

"pampered" than its native forebears. As it is a newly cultivated variety, it is unknown how tall it will eventually grow or whether it will maintain its compact form in maturity.

The dwarf Italian cypress was introduced to Israel in the 1990s and immediately became a favorite of gardeners, especially in private gardens. Due to its neat and orderly appearance, it is often used for sculptural emphasis or in straight boulevards of upright pillars. Both of these uses can be seen at the Weizmann Institute of Science.



from **On Marriage** Kahlil Gibran

Give your hearts, but not into each other's keeping.
For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.
And stand together yet not too near together:
For the pillars of the temple stand apart,
And the oak tree and the cypress grow not in each other's shadow.



EASTERN REDBUD

A small deciduous tree that blooms in a vibrant display. It usually grows several trunks, which are relatively thin and sometimes twisted, and covered in rough gray bark. New branches grow in a zigzag pattern, and wide heart-shaped leaves, whose clearly pointed tips distinguish them from the leaves of the *Cercis siliquastrum* (Judas tree), grow out from the branches intermittently.

In spring, when the tree is still completely bare, it becomes covered with abundant small, clear pink flowers. The flowers are papilionaceous (butterfly-

shaped) and they grow out of all the branches and sometimes also from the trunks. The flowers continue to bloom as the new leaves begin to sprout, after which the tree fills with flat pods that turn brown.

The Eastern redbud is common in eastern North America, where it sometimes grows under taller trees. It is the state tree of Oklahoma, and the Native Americans used it for food. The tree is fairly new in Israel, and is often grown here alongside the similar Judas tree. It prefers colder areas of the country, but also grows well in the coastal plain.

Signs
6-8

Common name: Eastern Redbud
Hebrew name: כליל קנדי klil canadi
Scientific name: *Cercis Canadensis*
Arabic name: شبرق كندي
Family: *Fabaceae* (*Caesalpinaceae*)



Autumn

Rainer Maria Rilke

The leaves are falling, falling as if from far up,
as if orchards were dying high in space.
Each leaf falls as if it were motioning "no."

And tonight the heavy earth is falling
away from all other stars in the loneliness.

We're all falling. This hand here is falling.
And look at the other one. It's in them all.

And yet there is one who holds all this
Falling with infinite gentleness in his hands.



EUROPEAN HACKBERRY

A deciduous tree, usually medium-sized, with an impressive trunk and branch structure. The trunk is straight and covered in smooth, pale gray bark with dark spots. The tree's crown is round, with olive-green foliage. The coarse, pointed, serrated leaves point toward the ground and typically have an asymmetrical structure. After the tree blooms modestly in spring, small dark round fruits develop on the tree, and these are eaten by birds.

The genus *Celtis* includes several dozen species; that found in Israel grows wild in southern Europe, the

Signs

6-3

7-12

Common name: European Hackberry

Hebrew name: מיש דרומי mayish dromi

Scientific name: *Celtis australis*

Arabic name: ميس

Family: *Ulmaceae*

Near East and the Middle East. In Israel it is considered a rare tree, but it can be found in ravines in the Galilee, on Mount Carmel and in the Judean hills. The tree is sacred to Muslims, who believe it can protect against evil spirits. Ancient *Celtis* trees can be found near the burial sites of holy men and near mosques, as well as on the Temple Mount.

The European hackberry is strong and resilient to disease as well as various climatic conditions. Its wood has been used to make furniture, and today it is used as a shade tree in boulevards, groves and gardens.





Signs

4-11

Common name: Feijoa, Pineapple Guava
Hebrew name: פיג'ואה תרבותית feijoa tarbutit
Scientific name: *Feijoa sellowiana* (*Acca sellowiana*)
Arabic name: فجوة
Family: *Myrtaceae*

FEIJOA

A small tree or large shrub, grown ornamentally or for its fruit. It usually grows on several trunks, but may also be trained to grow on only one. The tree's shape is rounded and moderately dense. The silvery-green color of its oval leaves is very similar to that of olive leaves.

In the spring, unusual solitary flowers develop among the leaves: a large cluster of long, straight, red stamens is surrounded by pinkish-white petals. In autumn, elliptical or round green fruits appear on the

plant, which do not change color as they ripen. At the heart of the fruit is a whitish, soft, sweet flesh similar in taste and texture to the related guava.

The feijoa is native to the highlands of southern Brazil and neighboring countries. It was introduced into Israel in the early 20th century. Commercial agricultural feijoa production was attempted, and a local cultivar named *s/or* was even developed, but it did not become popular. In private and public gardening, however, it is a very popular ornamental and fruit tree.





Signs
8-18

Common name: Fern Tree, Tower Tree,
Yellow Jacaranda
Hebrew name: שטע פרהיבי shessa parahibi
Scientific name: *Schizolobium parahyba*
Arabic name: جكرنده
Family: *Fabaceae* (*Caesalpinaceae*)



FERN TREE

A tall, narrow tree that develops a sparse crown of large, pinnate leaves. The fern tree grows extremely quickly, adding up to two meters to its height each year. The fan of large leaves at its top makes it look like a palm or giant fern.

The fern tree's very large green leaves grow up to a meter or more in length. They are bipinnate (twice-compound) with numerous small leaflets that fall off for a brief period in the spring. When the tree blooms, upright yellow inflorescences (clusters of flowers) develop on the treetop, reminiscent of the bloom

of the yellow poinciana. After the tree blooms, pods resembling spoons or shoe horns develop on the tree, each containing a single seed.

The genus *Schizolobium* contains two similar species that grow wild in Brazil and in Costa Rica. The fern tree is one of the tallest trees in Brazil, where it is frequently grown as a sculptural ornamental tree. It was introduced to Israel with a similar aim many years ago, but its distribution is very limited as it is suited only to warm locations that are protected from the wind, and it needs to be watered continually.



Signs
7-2

Common name: Fiddle-Leaf Fig, Banjo Fig
Hebrew name: פיקוס כינורי ficus kinori
Scientific name: *Ficus lyrata (pandurata)*
Arabic name: تين بنغالي
Family: *Moraceae*



FIDDLE-LEAF FIG

An evergreen tree with magnificent tropical foliage. Its trunk is relatively thin for the size of the tree and is mostly hidden by branches and foliage. The leaves are large and uniquely shaped: Narrower at the base and widening at the end, they are shaped like a violin or guitar – hence some of the tree’s various names. Large round, flattened figs with white spots develop in pairs among the leaves.
The fiddle-leaf fig grows wild in the tropical forests of western Africa, from Cameroon to Sierra

Leone. In its natural state, it is a “strangler fig” that develops as an epiphyte (a plant that grows upon another plant) on the branches of a mature tree; it sends roots downward which envelop the host tree’s trunk tightly until it is “strangled.”
The fiddle-leaf fig is commonly found around the world, including in Israel, as an indoor potted plant. Trees that have outgrown their pots sometimes find their way into gardens, and thus the fiddle-leaf fig has become relatively common in private gardens, too, in the warmer parts of Israel.



Signs
10-16

Common name: Flat-Topped Yate, Swamp Yate
Hebrew name: איקליפטוס מערבי eikalyptus ma'aravi
Scientific name: *Eucalyptus occidentalis*
Arabic name: اوكالبتوس غربي (كيننا)
Family: *Myrtaceae*

FLAT-TOPPED YATE

A medium-sized tree known for its unique shape. Its relatively narrow, sometimes tilted trunk is commonly used for poles and fence posts. The foliage is concentrated in the upper part of the tree, sometimes creating a flat crown like that of many desert trees (hence one of its common names), and mature trees may take on a distorted, sculptural look. Its leaves are typical of Eucalyptus species: They are narrow, pointed, curved and olive green in color, and they have a characteristic eucalyptus odor.

The prominent blooms on the tree attract honey bees. The flowers begin their development inside an

operculum with long horn-shaped covers – a clear identifying feature – which open to reveal long, pale yellow stamens. The flowers produce woody, bell-shaped fruit.

The flat-topped yate grows in southwestern Australia in semi-arid regions prone to flooding, or near bodies of salt water. Its durability makes it an ideal afforestation tree for places with similar climatic conditions in Israel, primarily the Negev. These eucalyptuses, planted in small, dense groups in "limans" – irrigation swales that are awash in water after strong rains – are a common sight along Negev highways.





FLORIDA FIDDLEWOOD

A medium-sized tree, usually evergreen, with exceptionally brilliant foliage. It grows on several upright trunks covered in fissured gray bark. The Florida fiddlewood has an elliptical shape that may be covered top-to-bottom in dense foliage. The glossy, deep green leaves are large and pointed.

The tree is native to tropical America, where the leaves drop a short time before the cold season, but in Israel, it generally only changes its leaves in spring. The scientific name of the genus, as well as the tree's common and Hebrew names, refer to the

Signs

3-10

8-1

Common name: Florida Fiddlewood,
Jamaica Fiddlewood

Hebrew name: קתרוסית מרובעת katrossit meruba'at

Scientific name: *Citharexylum spinosum*

Arabic name: ساندروس

Family: *Verbenaceae*

primary use of its wood – making such stringed instruments as lyres and violins.

In late summer and autumn, long, curving, hanging inflorescences (flower clusters) bear small white flowers shaped like nails, which emit a strong fragrance that intensifies at night. The red round fruits turn black when ripe, but in Israel the tree rarely bears fruit.

This tree was introduced to Israel prior to the establishment of the state. In the right conditions, it thrives on the coastal plain and in the valleys.





FLOSS SILK TREE

A semi-deciduous tree, with abundant, elegant blooms. The trunk is circular in cross section and the green bark turns gray with time. There are sharp thorns on the trunk and branches, though this thorniness varies from tree to tree. The size of the tree and the shape of its crown also vary, with just a few attaining an impressive size. The branches extend horizontally and the crown is not dense. The leaves are palmate, composed of five to seven leaflets that grow out of a central point and resemble a hand.

From summer to fall, the tree is covered in

Signs

9-9

Common name: Floss Silk Tree

Hebrew name: כוריזיה הדורה corisia hadura

Scientific name: *Chorisia speciosa*

Arabic name: سيبا

Family: *Bombacaceae*

numerous flowers resembling large orchids, but their structure is similar to that of hibiscus flowers. The flower's center is pale yellow or white, deepening into a striking pink along the petals. After the tree has bloomed, green capsules develop on the tree, containing seeds wrapped in a cocoon of white fiber. The fibers are used to stuff pillows, mattresses and life jackets, and also for thermal insulation. Oil is produced from the seeds, while canoes and paper are made from the wood.

The floss silk tree is native to southern Brazil, northern Argentina and Paraguay.

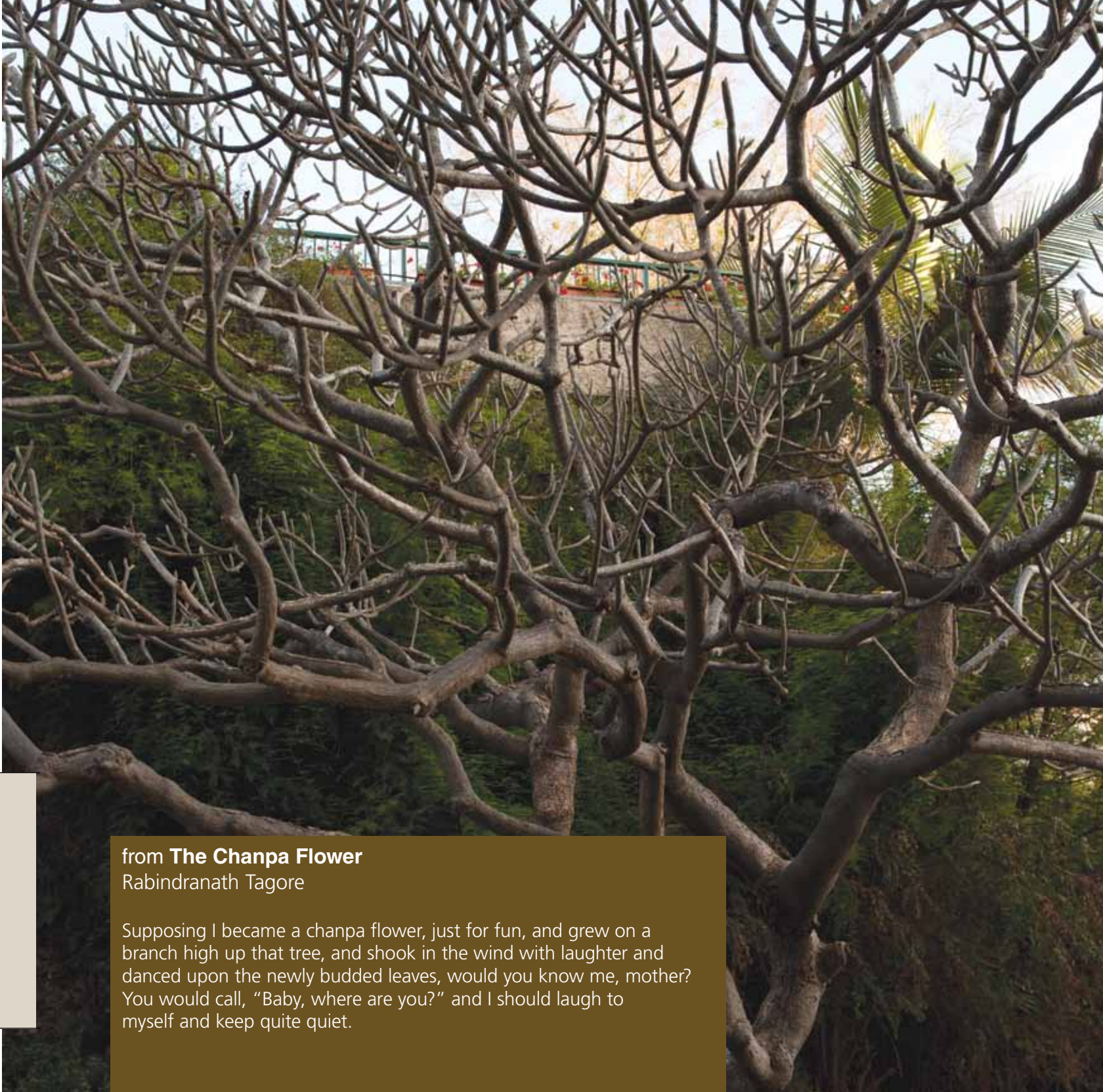




FRANGIPANI

Signs
3-11

Common name: Frangipani, Temple Tree
Hebrew name: פלומריה ריחנית plumeria reichanit
Scientific name: *Plumeria rubra*
Arabic name: بلوماريا عطرة
Family: *Apocynaceae*



A small, tropical deciduous tree often planted in gardens for its lush, extended bloom and unique appearance. The trunk is thin relative to the crown. Round, meaty branches that resemble fat fingers spread out from low down on the trunk. In winter, when the large, thick leaves fall, the tree looks like a sculpture. All parts of the tree contain a poisonous, milky sap.

The frangipani blooms from spring until early winter. The large, fragrant, propeller-shaped flowers are visible from a distance, and they fall to the ground at

the height of their beauty and fragrance. The colors of the flowers vary; the color of the original variety is red, hence its scientific name (*rubra*). This variety may, on occasion, develop a woody fruit resembling two wings.

The frangipani is native to Central America, from where it was brought to warm countries throughout the world. Buddhists bring the beautiful frangipani flowers to temples as an offering; in other places they are used as decoration or floated in pools and fountains. In Israel, the tree is also known by the name *Fitna*, which comes from Arabic.

from The Chanpa Flower
Rabindranath Tagore

Supposing I became a chanpa flower, just for fun, and grew on a branch high up that tree, and shook in the wind with laughter and danced upon the newly budded leaves, would you know me, mother? You would call, "Baby, where are you?" and I should laugh to myself and keep quite quiet.



GOLDEN SHOWER TREE

A fairly long-time resident of Israel. Medium-sized, its appearance is quite disheveled, with foliage that appears rich and tropical. The tree blooms profusely in summer. When in full bloom, it displays numerous bright yellow inflorescences (flower clusters) hanging downwards. After the tree has bloomed, long, distinctive pods develop, green at first and then brown. The pods look like pipes or oboes. The tree is native to India, where medicinal properties are

Signs
6-4

Common name: Golden Shower Tree, Indian Laburnum, Pudding-Pipe Tree
Hebrew name: כסיית האבוב cassiat he'abuv
Scientific name: *Cassia fistula*
Arabic name: كاسيا
Family: *Fabaceae (Caesalpinaceae)*

attributed to the “pudding” inside the pods.

In Israel, the tree sheds its leaves, which are pinnate with large down-turned leaflets. Between the end of winter and summer – as it begins to grow new leaves while in full bloom – the tree is partially or completely bare. The tree suffers in cold weather but responds well to heat and drought. It tends to be planted alone or in small groups to provide gardens with a colorful accent of bloom.





GUADALUPE PALM

A slow-growing palm that resembles a short *Washingtonia*. Its trunk is gray-brown, gently fissured, unmarked by fronds that have dropped off. The large, fan-like fronds are divided into lobes that split apart halfway down the blade. The petioles (leafstalks) are devoid of thorns.

The inflorescences (flower clusters) are branched and filled with tiny, bisexual flowers. In other *Brahea* species, the inflorescences are very long, but in this one they do not exceed the length of the fronds. The globular fruit contains a hard seed.

Signs
5-6

Common name: Guadalupe Palm
Hebrew name: ברהיאה נאכלת *brahea ne'echelet*
Scientific name: *Brahea (Erythea) edulis*
Arabic name: ليت سح
Family: *Areaceae (Palmae)*

The *Brahea* genus has 12 species, all of them originating in Mexico. The Guadalupe palm is endemic to Guadalupe Island off the Baja California peninsula. The palms on Guadalupe Island grow in clusters at various elevations. Herds of goats that were introduced to the island have severely damaged the already reduced wild population of the tree, and today it is listed as an endangered species. The Guadalupe palm is used in various countries as an ornamental tree. In Israel it is quite rare.





HAIRY BIRD'S EYE

Signs
7-6

Common name: Hairy Bird's Eye, Red Jacket
Hebrew name: כרבל לביד karbal lavid
Scientific name: *Alectryon tomentosum*
Arabic name: خدراف صوفي
Family: Sapindaceae



A small- to medium-sized evergreen tree with outstandingly dark, dense foliage. The gray trunk is smooth, relatively thin and always neat. Its crown forms a rich, thick dome. The younger parts of the tree are hairy, and its leaves are pinnate with large, thick, serrated, haired leaflets that are very dark on top and bleached on the underside.

In spring and summer, clusters of pinkish flowers emerge from the foliage and develop into showy clusters of round fruit with hairy shells that split in

half. Dark shiny seeds, each one covered by a prominent red aril reminiscent of the color of a rooster's comb, peek out of the fruits.

The genus *Alectryon* includes approximately 30 species that grow in Southeast Asia and on Pacific islands. The hairy bird's eye grows wild in the rainforests of eastern Australia. It has been grown in Israel for a long time, and in the last few decades it has been increasingly used in gardens and parks, and particularly to line streets.



Signs
5-5

Common name: Hispaniola Palmetto
Hebrew name: סביל סוכי sabal sochechi
Scientific name: *Sabal domingensis (umbraculifera)*
Arabic name: سبال خيمي
Family: *Areaceae (Palmae)*

HISPANIOLA PALMETTO

A palm tree with fan-shaped leaves, notable for its somewhat smooth, tall trunk. The trunk is gray and cylindrical, topped by a short, thick band of petiole (leafstalk) bases. The crown is relatively open. The large green thornless fronds are split into narrow lobes. Like the rest of the *Sabal* species, the Hispaniola palmetto's leaves have a three-dimensional structure; they fold around the axis and their ends curve.

The inflorescences (flower clusters) of small flowers are branched, and they do not extend past the leaves. Each black, pear-shaped fruit contains

a single seed.

The Hispaniola palmetto grows wild on the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola, hence the scientific and common names. In the past it was identified and referred to by different names, all of which are today considered synonymous. The tree is quite similar to other *Sabal* species, but its trunk, the shape of its fruits, and its size differentiate it from the others. In its native regions, the hollow trunks are used as pipes, and the leaves are used for weaving baskets and hats, as well as for roofing. In Israel, the Hispaniola palmetto is rare and is grown ornamentally.





HOLM OAK

Signs
10–15

Common name: Holm Oak, Holly Oak
Hebrew name: אלון הגלעין alon ha'gal'in
Scientific name: *Quercus ilex*
Arabic name: سنديان اخضر
Family: *Fagaceae*

An evergreen tree known for its dark, dense foliage. Its impressive trunk is covered in gently fissured, blackish bark. The tree's shape is round and its leaves are leathery and stiff, very dark on top, with silvery, hairy undersides. Leaf shape is variable, with edges that can be either smooth or serrated and spiny.

For a short period in the spring, the tree is covered in pale new growth that gives it the appearance of being in bloom. The flowers themselves, which also bloom in the spring, are small, greenish, and do

not stand out. They appear in small clusters, with some of the females developing into small, elongated acorns that ripen during their first year.

In southern Europe, where the tree is native, people eat the acorns roasted and harvest the famous truffles that grow on its roots. The hard timber is used both in carpentry and for making charcoal. The holm oak also grows in North Africa, in a habitat resembling that of the kermes oak (*Quercus calliprinos*) native to our region.



The Oak

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Live thy Life,
Young and old,
Like yon oak,
Bright in spring,
Living gold;

Summer-rich
Then; and then
Autumn-changed
Soberer-hued
Gold again.

All his leaves
Fall'n at length,
Look, he stands,
Trunk and bough
Naked strength.



Signs
4-15

Common name: Ice-Cream Bean
Hebrew name: אינגה אמיתית *inga amitit*
Scientific name: *Inga edulis (vera)*
Arabic name: انجا حلوه
Family: *Fabaceae (Papilionaceae)*

ICE-CREAM BEAN

A tropical, fast-growing evergreen tree used both ornamentally and for its fruit. In its native South American tropical forests it grows into a very large tree, but in Israel it reaches medium sizes. Its trunk is light brown, quite smooth, and begins to branch out fairly low to the ground. It has a rounded, open shape, rich foliage and pinnate leaves with large, pointed leaflets.

The ice-cream bean's yellowish-white, stamen-only flowers appear in the spring and develop into elongated pods the size of bananas in summer. The inner pulp of the hairy yellow fruit is fleshy and

sponge-like, and has a texture and taste resembling ice-cream – hence its common name, ice-cream bean. Natives of the Amazon valley use the tree for shade, timber and the brewing of an alcoholic beverage called *cachiri*.

Israeli growers have yet to succeed in growing the ice-cream bean commercially, but as a showy, unusual fruit tree, it can be found here and there in private gardens in the milder parts of the country. Several specimens can be found at the Weizmann Institute in the former exotic fruits experimental plot.





Signs
8-16

Common name: Flame Tree, Illawarra Flame Tree
Hebrew name: ברכיכטון אדרי *brachychiton edri*
Scientific name: *Brachychiton acerifolius*
Arabic name: راكيكيتن فيقسي
Family: *Sterculiaceae*

ILLAWARRA FLAME TREE

The Illawarra flame tree is distinctive for its large leaves, bright flowers and upright form. The tree is native to Australia, where it reaches an enormous size but outside of Australia it is commonly medium- to large-sized. It has a smooth green, straight, thick trunk and, like the rest of the genus *Brachychiton*, it stores water in its trunk. Its leaves are large, slightly convex, and typically divided into large lobes. Some of the leaves are reminiscent of maple leaves, hence the name (*acerifolius*: maple-leaved).

The leaves fall in late winter or spring. At the end of the spring, before the new leaves appear, bright

red flowers cover the branches; from a distance, the tree appears to be swathed in a red cloud. After the tree blooms, dark brown, hairy, woody, boat-shaped fruits begin to develop, filled with large, hairy seeds. On young trees, leaf shedding and flowering sometimes take place on only part of the tree, but on mature trees, these occur over the entire tree.

The *Sterculiaceae* family to which *Brachychiton* belongs includes a number of such well-known plants as the kola and cacao trees. The Illawarra flame tree is a popular ornamental tree in many countries, including Israel.





INDIAN BANYAN

A huge, evergreen, tropical tree, whose primary identifying feature is the thick aerial roots that grow downwards from its large branches and develop into additional trunks. A mature tree can continue to grow in this manner, eventually turning into an entire grove of trunks. The area covered by such a tree can reach more than a kilometer, and it may provide shade to thousands of people.

The bark on the trunks and branches is fairly smooth. The green leaves are large and thick with yellow veins. New leaves appear in a bronze color.

Signs

1-18

3-2

Common name: Indian Banyan

Hebrew name: פיקוס בנגלי ficus bengali

Scientific name: *Ficus benghalensis*

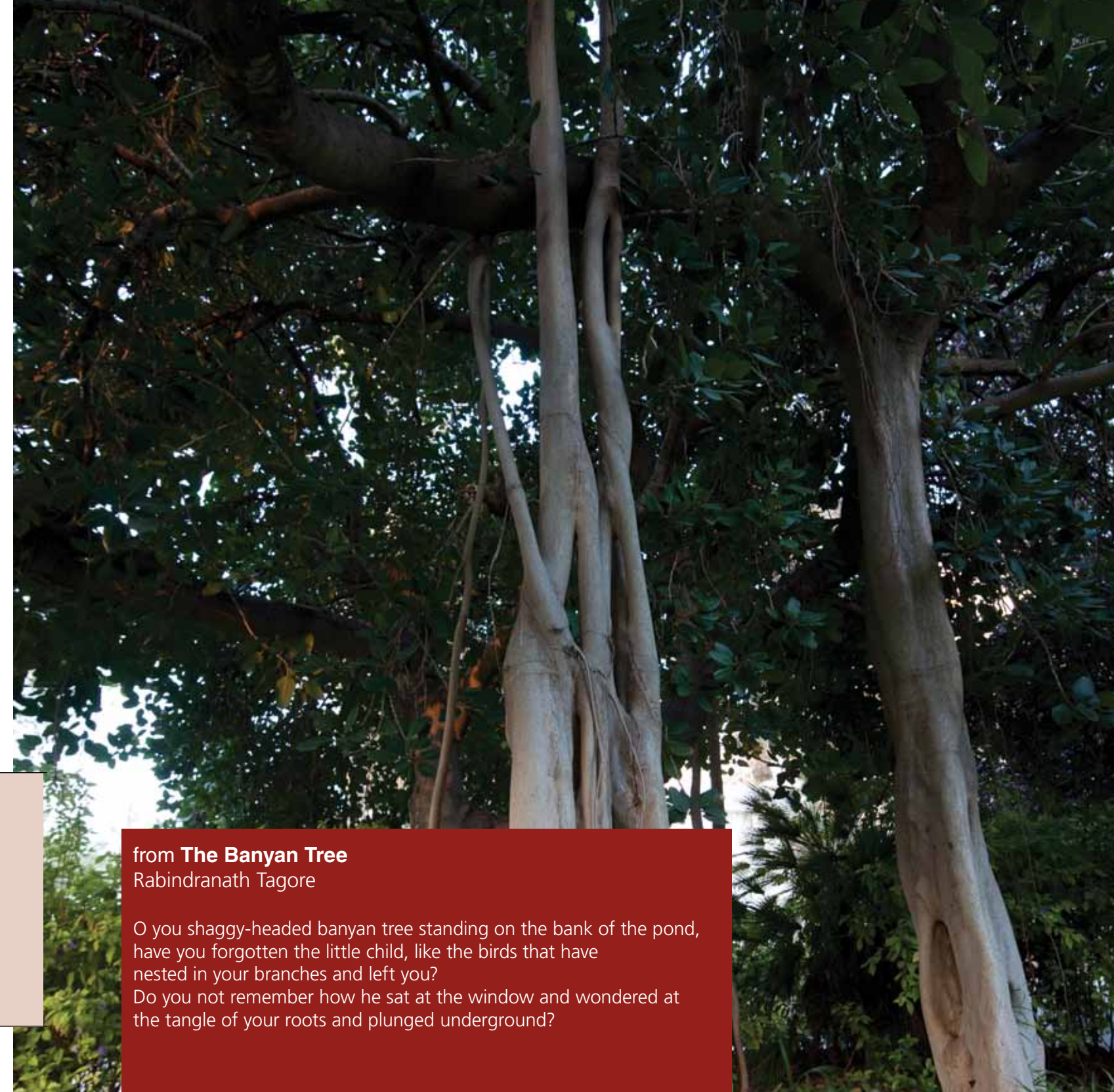
Arabic name: تين البنغال

Family: *Moraceae*

The flowers are small figs that ripen into beautiful red fruit growing in pairs among the leaves.

The Indian banyan is the national tree of India and is considered holy there.

Because of its size, the Indian banyan has garnered much interest as an ornamental tree in warm regions throughout the world. It has been grown in Israel for a long time. A large, famous example presides over the garden at Mikveh Israel, while others can be found in Ein Gedi and in kibbutz landscaping in the Beit She'an Valley.



from **The Banyan Tree**

Rabindranath Tagore

O you shaggy-headed banyan tree standing on the bank of the pond,
have you forgotten the little child, like the birds that have
nested in your branches and left you?
Do you not remember how he sat at the window and wondered at
the tangle of your roots and plunged underground?



INDIAN LAUREL FIG

A wide evergreen tree, one of the most common ornamental trees in Israel. When allowed to grow without interference, it develops a wide trunk from which numerous large branches grow diagonally upwards to create a dense shape. Aerial roots may grow downwards from the primary branches and along the trunk. When the tree matures, a weave of surface roots develops at the base of the trunk. This contributes to the tree's beauty, but also endangers nearby paving and foundations. The bark is quite smooth and pale gray. The leaves are small, oval and glossy (one of its earlier names in Hebrew was *Ficus notzetz*, shiny fig). The leaves are dark green; new, pale green leaves stand out against the dark green background, giving the tree a

Signs

- 1-5
- 2-9
- 2-10
- 6-7
- 10-2
- 10-14

Common name: Indian Laurel Fig, Chinese Banyan

Hebrew name: פיקוס השדרות ficus hashderot

Scientific name: *Ficus microcarpa (retusa)*

Arabic name: فيكوس الجمادات

Family: *Moraceae*

youthful look.

When the tree blooms, small green figs develop on the branches. Tiny wasps particular to this *Ficus* species pollinate them so that they ripen and soften. These wasps arrived in Israel only in the last few decades of the 20th century. The ripe figs attract birds and fruit bats, leading to a decrease in the use of the tree in recent years.

The Indian laurel fig has a wide natural distribution: India, Sri Lanka, southern China, Malaysia, Indonesia, northern Australia and New Caledonia.

The *Ficus* genus includes over 800 species of trees, shrubs and climbers, including two well-known species in our region: *Ficus carica* – the common fig, and *Ficus sycomorus* – the sycamore fig.





ITALIAN STONE PINE

A large coniferous tree. Its dense shape is symmetrical and spherical when young, finally taking a form resembling an umbrella (hence the common name, umbrella pine). Its thick trunk is covered by reddish bark composed of vertical plates.

The needles are a vivid green, and are longer and thicker than those of other pine species. The cones are large, and they take more than two years to ripen. Its seeds are edible pine nuts. This is the origin of its current Hebrew name, which has already been changed twice – from *oren ha'sela* (stone pine) to

Signs

1-7

2-2

8-12

10-3

Common name: Italian Stone Pine, Umbrella Pine

Hebrew name: אורן הצנובר *oren ha'tznohar*

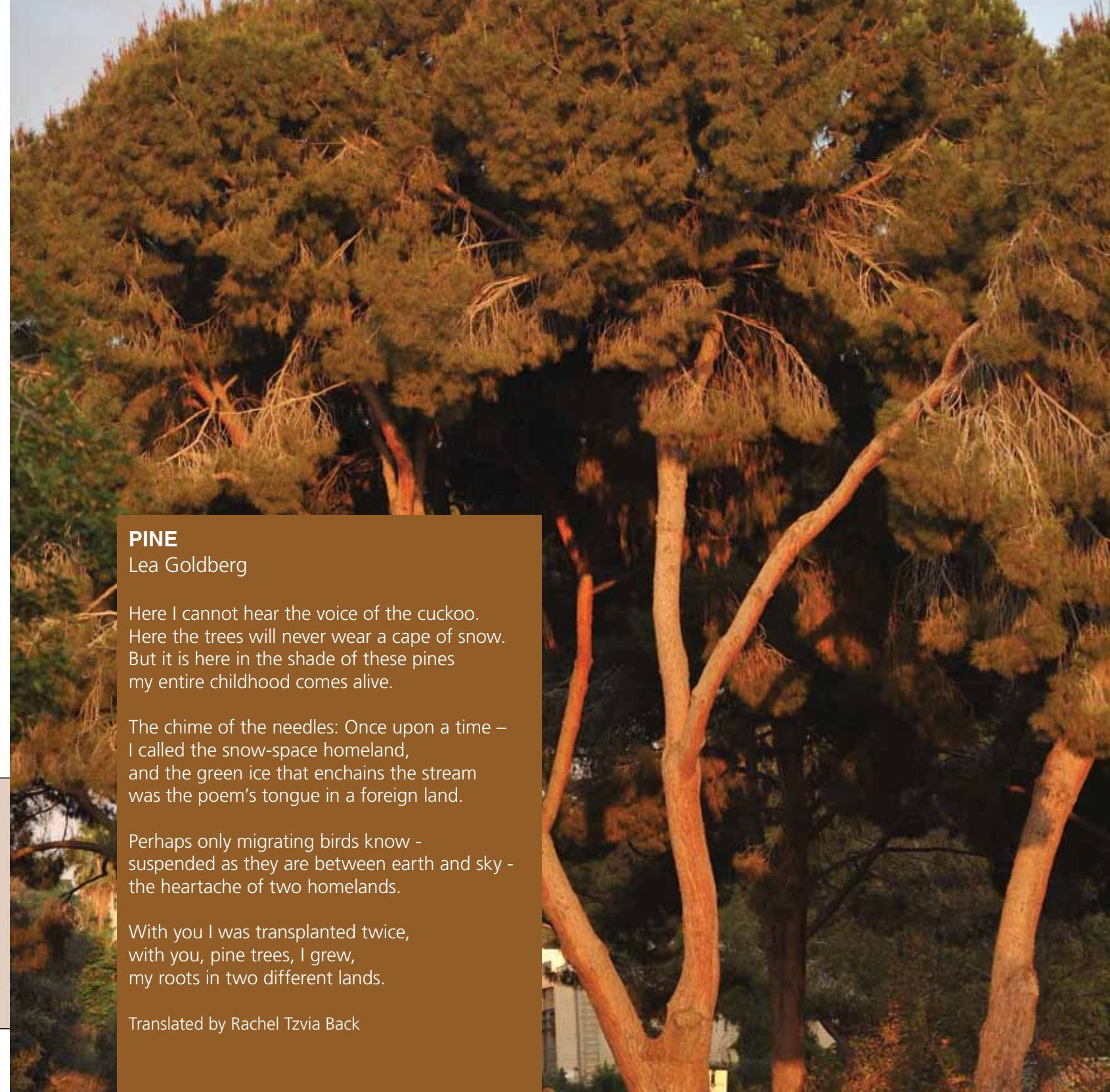
Scientific name: *Pinus pinea*

Arabic name: صنوبر الطعام

Family: *Pinaceae*

oren hagal'in (pit pine), and finally to *oren ha'tznohar* (pine-nut pine).

The stone pine grows in the Mediterranean region from southern Europe to the Levant. It has been an iconic tree in the city of Rome and its environs from antiquity. Stone pines have been growing in Israel at least since the Middle Ages, but it is unknown whether they are native. This tree is characterized by its resilience to the diseases and pests that attack other pines; once mature, it is able to grow without irrigation.



PINE

Lea Goldberg

Here I cannot hear the voice of the cuckoo.
Here the trees will never wear a cape of snow.
But it is here in the shade of these pines
my entire childhood comes alive.

The chime of the needles: Once upon a time –
I called the snow-space homeland,
and the green ice that enchains the stream
was the poem's tongue in a foreign land.

Perhaps only migrating birds know -
suspended as they are between earth and sky -
the heartache of two homelands.

With you I was transplanted twice,
with you, pine trees, I grew,
my roots in two different lands.

Translated by Rachel Tzvia Back



Signs

1-4

7-1

10-11

Common name: Jacaranda

Hebrew name: סיגלון מימוזי (חד-עלים)

sigalon mimozi (chad-alim)

Scientific name: *Jacaranda mimosifolia (acutifolia)*

Arabic name: جكرندا

Family: *Bignoniaceae*

JACARANDA

A large tree that blooms abundantly in shades of blue and purple. The crown is round, wide and open, with medium-green foliage. The leaves are bipinnate (twice-compound) with pointed tips. The jacaranda is a semi-deciduous tree – in warm climates or during moderate winters it keeps its leaves or only partially sheds them.

In spring the jacaranda blooms opulently at the branch ends, and if the tree is shedding its leaves, the display is especially outstanding. A second bloom may also occur in mid- to late summer. The flowers are tubular and asymmetrical, and they

resemble shofars (rams' horns). When they fall en masse, they carpet the ground in deep purple. After the tree blooms, fruits shaped like round disks develop on the tree, which are used as castanets.

The jacaranda was introduced to Israel from the mountainous regions of Peru and Brazil during the British Mandate period and has been widely planted in gardens and groves. A strong, quick-growing tree, the jacaranda is resilient to extreme heat and moderate cold, but sensitive to strong winds and salty or calcareous soils.





Signs
4-12
5-15

Common name: Jambul, Java Plum, Jambolan, Indian Blackberry
Hebrew name: סיזיגיון ימבולן sizygon yambolan
Scientific name: *Syzygium jambolanum (cumini)*
Arabic name: جمبول
Family: *Myrtaceae*

JAMBUL

A medium-sized evergreen tree with rich foliage and edible fruits. The trunk is brown and rough, and the large leaves (reminiscent of *ficus* leaves) grow in pairs from the secondary branches, which hang down almost to the bottom of the tree.
In spring, inflorescences (clusters) of fragrant whitish flowers develop on the branch ends, and in summer an abundance of fruits resembling large olives appear, ripening to red and then black. The

juicy fruits are eaten by both people and birds, though they color the tongue and mouth purple.
The genus *Syzygium* contains approximately 1,000 species of trees and shrubs distributed over the tropical areas of the Old World. The jambul grows from India to Indonesia, and its name is woven into the traditions of various cultures. In the Hindu religion, the tree is connected to the god Rama and is known as a "fruit of the gods."



Jambul

Traditional Cambodian poem

Red is for Sunday,
Orange truly looks like a beautiful moon,
Purple is reserved for Tuesday,
Wednesday is the green of the lieb plant
Thursday is the yellowish green of the leaves of a banana palm
Happy Friday is blue and must be tidy,
Saturday is the color of ripe pring (Jambul plum) according to the ages



JAPANESE PERSIMMON

A short, deciduous fruit tree notable for its beautiful leaves and fruit. The wood is hard; and the relatively large, oval leaves are smooth and dark above, and hairy on their undersides. In late autumn, no matter the weather, the leaves change color to shades of orange, red and purple.

In spring, new leaves sprout and flowers bloom abundantly. The flowers are dioecious, either male or female, though most cultivars produce only female flowers. The small flowers are bell-shaped and cream-colored. The female flowers are fertilized asexually and thus produce seedless fruit. Some cultivars, how-

Signs
4-13

Common name: Japanese Persimmon, Kaki Persimmon

Hebrew name: אפרסמון יפני afarsemon yapani

Scientific name: *Diospyros kaki*

Arabic name: كاكى , مشمش اليابان (افرسمون)

Family: *Ebenaceae*

ever, do grow both male and female flowers, and they have fruits with flat brown seeds. The fruit ripens in late autumn, turning a deep orange.

There are more than 500 species in the persimmon's genus, most of which are from tropical and subtropical regions, with a minority from temperate areas. Some species bear edible fruits, the Japanese persimmon primary among them. The Japanese persimmon actually originated in China, and from there was introduced to Japan. It was brought to Europe and to other countries in the 19th century, and made its way to Israel in the early 20th century.





JAPANESE PRIVET

A small evergreen tree or large shrub. Its shape is round and compact, and it grows on a single thin, smooth trunk or on a number of trunks. The medium-sized, oval leaves are thick, dark and glossy. They are reminiscent of *ficus* leaves but, unlike them, are arranged in pairs on the branches (an arrangement typical of the family *Oleaceae*).

In late spring, upright inflorescences (clusters) of small whitish flowers develop on the branch tips. These are followed by small globular or elliptical fruits, which decorate the tree with purple-black

Signs
1-6

Common name: Japanese Privet, Wax-Leaf Privet

Hebrew name: ליגוסטרום יפני *ligustrum yapani*

Scientific name: *Ligustrum japonicum*

Arabic name: ياسم ياباني

Family: *Oleaceae*

clusters during the winter.

The Japanese privet is native to central and southern Japan, as well as Korea. In those countries, the fruits are used for medicinal purposes. Outside of its native region, the Japanese privet is a common ornamental plant and is often used as a small, graceful tree for patios, small gardens, boulevards or hedges. The Japanese privet grows successfully in most of Israel, especially in colder parts of the country, where it is used as a modest substitute for various *Ficus* species.





KAFFIR PLUM

A medium-sized evergreen tree, prized for its beautiful foliage. The trunk is pale brown, thin relative to the crown, and straight. Long secondary branches split off, sometimes creating a sculptural appearance. The foliage forms dense clumps and is distinctive for its vivid green color. The leaves are pinnate with 11-15 elongated and slightly curved leaflets (hence the scientific name: *Harpephyllum*, sickle-shaped leaves); the leaves are leathery and glossy; new leaves are an attractive red color.

Like many trees of the *Anacardiaceae* family, the kaffir plum is dioecious: some of the trees

Signs
1-1

Common name: Kaffir Plum, Kaffir Date
Hebrew name: מגלון אפריקני maglon africanus
Scientific name: *Harpephyllum caffrum*
Arabic name: خوخ افريقي
Family: *Anacardiaceae*

are male and others female. The small white or greenish flowers develop in inflorescences (flower clusters) among the leaves, usually in spring. After the female trees are fertilized, groups of olive-sized fruits develop, first green then ripening to dark red; they are both attractive and tasty.

The kaffir plum grows wild along rivers in southern Africa. Its dense foliage prevents rain from reaching the ground underneath the tree, so that almost no plants are able to grow beneath its crown. In Israel, the kaffir plum is a relatively new ornamental tree. It grows successfully in warmer parts of the country.

