

What is Tu B'Shevat?



February 2, 2026 • 15 Shevat, 5786

The 15th day of the Hebrew month Shevat is known as the "New Year of the Trees."

*The holiday starts the night before on February 1, 2026

Tu B'Shvat heralds the arrival of spring in the Land of Israel, when almond blossoms start to open and sap in the trees begins to rise. The purpose of the holiday is to calculate the age of trees for tithing, or giving fruit offerings. The Torah teaches that a tree's fruit may not be eaten during the first three years of the tree's life. In the fourth year the fruit can be brought as an offering to God and only in the fifth year can it be consumed.

On Tu B'shvat we celebrate our connection to Israel by eating from *shivat haminim*, the seven species mentioned in the book of Deuteronomy as growing in abundance in the Land of Israel. The seven species are: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates.

SEVEN SPECIES OF ISRAEL

figs



grapes



olives



pomegranates

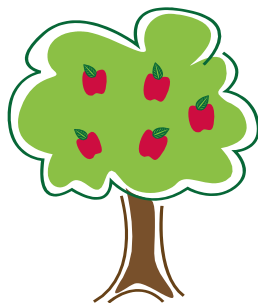


wheat

barley



dates



Plant a tree

Tu B'Shevat reminds us of our connection to the earth and our role as caretakers of the environment. It is a tradition to donate money to plant trees in Israel or to plant trees in our own communities.

Tu B'Shevat Seder

This seder was developed in the 16th century by Kabbalists (Jewish mystics) as a way to savor and appreciate the bounty of this world, as well as to give thanks for all the ways that trees provide us with food, shelter, beauty, air and valuable life lessons. Four cups of wine are drunk and a variety of fruits are eaten.



On Tu B'Shevat it is customary to eat a "new fruit" and recite these blessings:

ברוך אתה הי אלוהינו מלך העולם

בורא פרי העץ

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, borei pri ha'etz.
"Blessed are You, Adonai our G-d, King of the universe, who creates the fruit of the tree."



ברוך אתה הי אלוהינו מלך העולם
שהחיינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu la'zman hazeh.
"Blessed are You, Adonai our G-d, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us and enabled us to reach this occasion."



Merage Jewish Community Center of
Orange County

1 Federation Way
Irvine, CA 92603

949.435.3400
jccoc.org