

# הקשר היהודי שלך

## Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee – *Written by Linda S Trapasso*

### Grow an Israeli Garden

Did you know there are approximately 2,700 species of plants in Israel? This is many more than the seven species listed in Deuteronomy 8:8, “A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey.” Or the four species of Sukkot: *etrog* or citron tree, *lulav* or date palm tree, *hadass* or myrtle tree, and *arava* or willow tree.

As we go through spring and I see the different plants growing and blooming, I thought how nice it would be to have a garden that included plants that also grow in Israel. We can grow grapes in New England, and fig trees are known to thrive here when handled properly. I know that you can order olive trees online and grow them indoors (search “olive tree gift”). Pomegranates and citron grow in California and perhaps indoors here in New England (search “pomegranate tree for sale” or “citron tree for sale”).



Let’s consider the Israeli landscape with its different geographical regions. Natural woodlands of calliprinos oaks cover the upper Galilee, Mount Carmel, and other hilly regions. In spring, rockrose and thorny broom turn the hillsides pink, white, and yellow. There are hyacinth, crocus, and narcissus in the mountains as early as December, followed by anemones, tulips, cycla-

men, iris, and daisies. Hon-ey-suckle creeps over the bushes, and large plane trees provide shade along the freshwater streams of Galilee.



There are over 200 million trees in Israel – forests of pine, tamarisk, carob, and eucalyptus. Wildflowers and medicinal plants are plentiful. Fruit trees bloom from January to April. In the south, you can find acacia trees and the prickly sabra cactus. In the Negev highlands, Atlantic pistachios grow along the dry riverbeds, and date palms grow wherever there is sufficient underground water. ([Flora and Fauna in Israel](#))

Many of these plants have varieties that thrive here in New England. To see images of Israeli plants, go to [FlowersInIsrael](#) where you can look at them alpha-



betically, by color, by bloom month, and more. One of my favorites is lantana, usually available here as a hanging plant.

Some of the vegetables that grow in Israel include tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and zucchini. Melons grow in the valleys in the winter. Along the Mediterranean, Israel grows citrus, avocados, kiwi fruit, guavas, mangoes, and grapes. Subtropical areas grow bananas and dates. In the north, apples, pears, and cherries are popular. In total, Israel produces over 40 types of fruit. ([Agriculture in Israel](#)).

We certainly can grow some of these items in our New England gardens. Won’t it be nice to watch your Israeli garden grow this year?

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