

The Mitzvah of the Four Species:

Lulav | Etrog | Hadassim | Aravos
Palm | Citron | Myrtle | Willow



The verse in the Torah tells us: (Lev 23:40) Ul'kachtem lachem. " And you shall take for yourself". You must obtain your own 4 species. You cannot "borrow" someone elses. However, someone else can give you theirs as a gift, conditional upon your returning them when you're done. Spouses and parents/children do not need to give a gift-it's all joint ownership.

How to Hold: the four species: Lulav bundle in right hand, spine facing you, with hadassim (small leaves) on right, aravos (long leaves) on left. Etrog in Left hand
Lefties should reverse it, so that the bundle is in the left hand, etrog in right.

For the blessing: Hold the etrog upside down with the oketz (stem, the part where it grew) facing up. Then make the bracha: (p. 630)

....asher kidshanu bemitzvotav, vitzeivanu al netilat lulav.

Flip the etrog, so the stem is now down. Then say Shehecheyanu on the first day (not on subsequent days). Best place to say the brocha is in the sukkah. Second best place is wherever you are.

Na'anuim: Waving. In six directions.

First: in front of you (east)

Second: your right (south)

Third: behind you (west)

Fourth: your left (north)

Fifth: up (up)

Last: down (down) tops of leaves always face up.

Suggested movement: three times in each direction. You may shake the leaves a bit on each shake, or not; up to you. Sephardim do not, Rema in shulchan aruch says yes.

Best practice: after each wave, bring it back to your heart, where you klapped ashamnu on Yom Kippur.

All this is before Hallel.

Waving during Hallel on sukkot: Do all the six directions, three waves in each direction at these points:

Hodu lashem ki tov p. 638 after chazzan says Hodu

Hodu lashem ki tov p, 638 after chazzan says Yomar

Hodu lashem ki tov p. 638 after chazzan says Yomru

Hodu lashem ki tov p, 638 after chazzan says Yomru

Ana hashem hoshia na p. 640

Ana Hashem hoshia na p. 640

Hodu lashem ki tov p. 640

Hodu lashem ki tov p. 640

One shake in each direction per word (except Hashem)

Example: Hodu (front) Lashem ki(right) tov (behind) ki (left)
L'olam (up) chasdo (down)

Or A- (front) -na(right) Hashem ho- (behind) –shi- (left) -a
(up) na (down)

