

雅歌書中的植物

Plants of the Song of Solomon



Cedar 香柏樹

Wood of Lebanon 利巴嫩木

Cedrus libani Loud No. 101

雅歌一章17节：「以**香柏樹**為房屋的棟樑，以松樹為椽子。」

Song 1:17 “The beams of our house are *cedar*, and our rafters of fir.”

雅歌三章9节：「所羅門王用**利巴嫩木**，為自己製造一乘華轎。」

Song 3:9 “King Solomon made himself a chariot of the *wood of Lebanon*.”

雅歌五章15节：「他的腿好像白玉石柱，安在精金座上。他的形狀如利巴嫩，且佳美如**香柏樹**。」

Song 5:15 “His legs are as pillars of marble, set upon sockets of fine gold: his countenance is as Lebanon, excellent as the *cedars*.”

雅歌八章9节：「她若是牆，我們要在其上建造銀塔。她若是門，我們要用**香柏木**板圍護她。」

Song 8:9 “If she be a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she be a door, we will inclose her with boards of *cedar*.”

Planted by God. Psalms 104:16 Isaiah 41:19

Considered the first of trees. 1 Kings 4:33

Described as

High. Isaiah 37:24 Ezekiel 17:22 Amos 2:9

Spreading. Psalms 80:10-11

Fragrant. Song of Solomon 4:11

Graceful and beautiful. Psalms 80:10 Ezekiel 17:23

Strong and durable. Isaiah 9:10



The Cedars of God is one of the last vestiges of the extensive forests of the Cedars of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) that thrived across Mount Lebanon in ancient times. Their timber was exploited by the Assyrians, Babylonians and Persians as well as the Phoenicians. The wood was prized by Egyptians for shipbuilding; Solomon used them in the construction of the First Temple in Jerusalem and the Ottoman Empire also used the cedars in railway construction.



Myrrh 沒藥

Commiphora Myrrha (Nees) No.144

雅歌一章13节：「我以我的良人爲一袋沒藥，常在我懷中。」

Song 1:13 "A bundle of *myrrh* is my wellbeloved unto me; he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts."

雅歌三章6节：「那從曠野上來，形狀如煙柱，以沒藥和乳香並商人各樣香粉薰的是誰呢？」

Song 3:6 "Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with *myrrh* and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?"

雅歌五章5,13节：「我起來，要給我良人開門。我的兩手滴下沒藥，我的指頭有沒藥汁滴在門門上。他的兩腮如香花畦，如香草台。他的嘴唇像百合花，且滴下沒藥汁。」

Song 5:5,13 "I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with *myrrh*, and my fingers with sweet smelling *myrrh*, upon the handles of the lock. His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling *myrrh*."

The commiphora myrrha tree, or Commiphora abyssinica, commonly called the gum myrrh tree, is a tree within the burseraceae family of plants. The commiphora myrrha tree produces a type of aromatic resin known as myrrh. This is a sticky substance that has been used since 2000 B.C. for making incense and perfumes. It was used by the ancient Egyptians as an embalming fluid. It is also mentioned in the Bible.



The commiphora myrrha tree is a small, low-growing shrubby tree. It has a sturdy trunk with grayish-silver bark that peels back in layers to reveal a green tinted bark beneath. It has spiny leaves that are greenish-gray and vary in size depending on the location, plant age, and season. Pale brown flowers bloom during the flowering season, usually in the late spring.

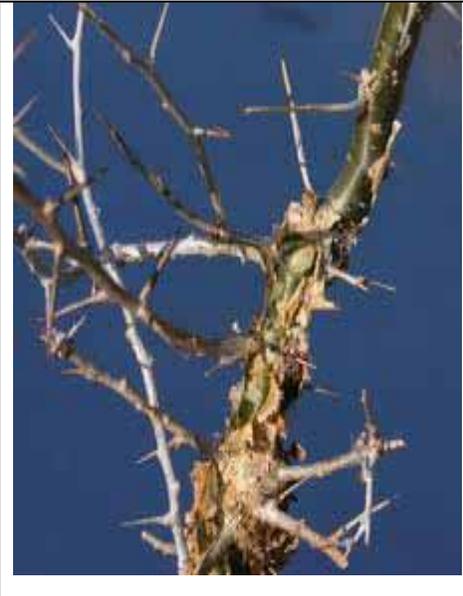


Fig Tree 無花果樹

Ficus carica No.110

雅歌二章13节：「**無花果樹**的果子漸漸成熟，葡萄樹開花放香。我的佳偶，我的美人，起來，與我同去。」

Song 2:13 “The *fig tree* putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.”

The common fig, Ficus carica, is the most widely planted fruit tree in Bible lands. The tree lives up to two hundred years so is often planted with olive trees, which are also long lived. It is a much branched tree with branches arising low on the trunk. All parts of the tree contain a white, milky sap which can cause dermatitis in sensitive individuals. Leaves are about the size of a hand and have three main lobes and a hairy undersurface.



The fig is the last tree to produce leaves in the spring. While the leaves of the almonds and other deciduous trees are fully developed, the fig is just beginning to leaf-out. Jesus refers to this in Mark 13:28-31 as the beginning of summer, a verse often used to interpret Bible prophecies. Ficus carica is well known for its fragrant leaves that are large and lobed. The leaves are 12–25 centimetres (4.7–9.8 in) long and 10–18 centimetres (3.9–7.1 in) across, and deeply lobed with three or five lobes.



Nuts 核桃

Juglans regia L. No.162

雅歌六章11节：「我下入**核桃**園，要看穀中青綠的植物，要看葡萄發芽沒有，石榴開花沒有。」
Song 6:11 “I went down into the garden of **nuts** to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded.”

There is little doubt that the nut trees mentioned in Song of Songs 6:11 are the trees known as the English, or more precisely as Persian, (Juglans regia) walnuts that are widely grown in many parts of the world. The center of origin of this species is not known but it is widely grown in the Middle East where the seeds of the fruits ("nuts") are eaten. A delicacy in parts of Syria is candied green walnut where the entire fruit including the part that will become bony, is eaten.



Juglans regia is a large, deciduous tree attaining heights of 25–35 m, and a trunk up to 2 m diameter, commonly with a short trunk and broad crown, though taller and narrower in dense forest competition. The dark green leaves, and strong thick trunk would tower over the vines and the shrubby pomegranates. It is a light-demanding species, requiring full sun to grow well. The whole fruit, including the husk, falls in autumn; the seed is large, with a relatively thin shell, and edible, with a rich flavor.



Henna 鳳仙花

Lawsonia inermis L. No.134

雅歌一章14节：「我以我的良人爲一棵 鳳仙花，在隱基底葡萄園中。」

Song 1:14 "My beloved is unto me as a cluster of *camphire* in the vineyards of En-gedi."

雅歌四章13节：「你園內所種的結了石榴，有佳美的果子，並 鳳仙花 與哪噠樹。」

Song 4:13 "Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; *camphire*, with spikenard."

Henna is a much branched shrub that grows to a height of about ten feet. Leaves are small and elliptic. The individual flowers, borne in the spring, are small but produced in large masses and are extremely fragrant. The dried flowers retain the heavy scent. Today henna is often grown as an ornamental.



The henna plant, Lawsonia inermis, is probably native to North Africa but may have been grown in hot oases such as En Gedi. This is a beautiful oasis between the Dead Sea and the precipitous cliffs of the Judean Desert is a place where many medicinal and cosmetic plants such as balsam and henna were grown. The climate is tropical and there is an abundant supply of water. What a beautiful allusion in the Song of Songs 1:14. "My beloved is unto me a cluster of henna flowers in the vineyards of En Gedi." In the middle of a severe desert one finds this beautiful oasis and here, in the vineyard, is the henna plant with its masses of white, fragrant flowers! The intense fragrance of the henna is also suggested in Songs of Songs 4:13.



Mandrakes 風茄

Mandragora officinarum L. No.163

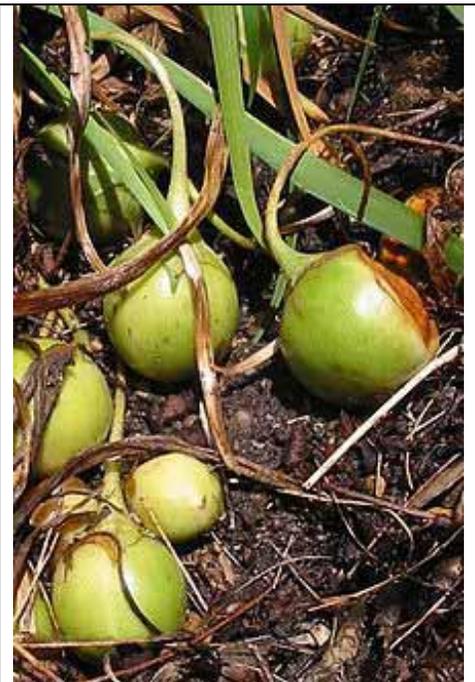
雅歌七章13节：「**風茄**放香，在我們的門內有各樣新陳**佳美的果子**。我的良人，這都是我為你存留的。」

Song 7:13 "The **mandrakes** give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of **pleasant fruits**, new and old, which I have laid up for thee, O my beloved."

The mandrake, Mandragora officinalis, is a strange plant mentioned only in Genesis 30:14 and Song of Songs 7:13 although it is a common plant in many parts of Israel. Mandrake is a member of the nightshade family that includes some of the most poisonous plants such as nightshade, jimsonweed, tobacco and, paradoxically, some of the most common vegetables such as potatoes, tomatoes, green pepper, and eggplants.



As the Bible so accurately describes, the mandrake often grows as a weed in wheat fields. The plant consists of several large, wrinkled, dark green leaves that lie flat upon the ground forming a rosette. In the center of this rosette a cluster of attractive purple flowers appears in the winter. The root of the mandrake may be several feet long and weigh several pounds. It has bizarre often human-like shapes and for this reason is highly regarded by the superstitious. The fruits, as noted in Song of Songs, are produced in the early summer and have a very attractive fragrance.



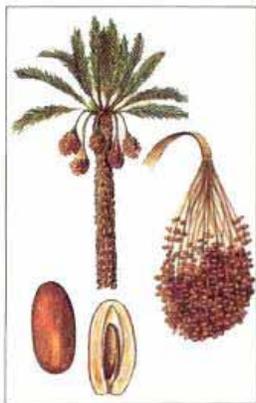
Palm Tree 棕樹

Phoenix dactylifera L. No.155

雅歌七章7-8节：「你的身量好像棕樹。你的兩乳如同其上的果子，累累下垂。我說，我要上這棕樹，抓住枝子。願你的兩乳好像葡萄累累下垂，你鼻子的氣味香如蘋果。」

Song 7:7-8 "This thy stature is like to a *palm tree*, and thy breasts to clusters of grapes. I said, I will go up to the *palm tree*, I will take hold of the boughs thereof: now also thy breasts shall be as clusters of the vine, and the smell of thy nose like apples;"

Perhaps the most distinctive tree in Bible lands is the date palm, Phoenix dactylifera, with its towering, unbranched trunk crowned with immense spreading leaves several meters long. This noble tree is a picture of the upright as clearly indicated in such verses as Psalm 92:12, "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar on Lebanon." A similar allusion is found in Song of Songs 7:7 8 "This thy stature is like to a palm tree . . ." The palm tree is also associated with victory (Revelation 7:9).



The date palm is native to the Middle East but its relatives are almost entirely tropical in distribution. As we have seen from many other examples including olive, myrtle and fig, many Bible plants belong to families with a center of distribution elsewhere. In nature it is found in desert oases as it will tolerate low rainfall and a fairly high degree of soil salinity. One of the largest desert oases is Jericho which is watered by a very large spring, the spring of Elisha (II Kings 2:21). Jericho is known as the city of palm trees (Deuteronomy 34:3, Judges 1:16 and 3:13) and even today they form the most conspicuous vegetation in that area.



Phoenix dactylifera

Photo: J. F. Smith



Apple Tree 蘋果樹

Prunus armeniaca L. No.124

雅歌二章3，5节：「我的良人在男子中，如同**蘋果樹**在樹林中。我歡歡喜喜坐在他的蔭下，嘗他果子的滋味，覺得甘甜。求你們給我葡萄乾增補我力，給我**蘋果**暢快我心，因我思愛成病。」

Song 2:3,5 “As the **apple tree** among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. Stay me with flagons, comfort me with **apples**: for I am sick of love.”

雅歌七章8节：「我說，我要上這棕樹，抓住枝子。願你的兩乳好像葡萄累累下垂，你鼻子的氣味香如**蘋果**。」

Song 7:8 “I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of the boughs thereof: now also thy breasts shall be as clusters of the vine, and the smell of thy nose like **apples**;”

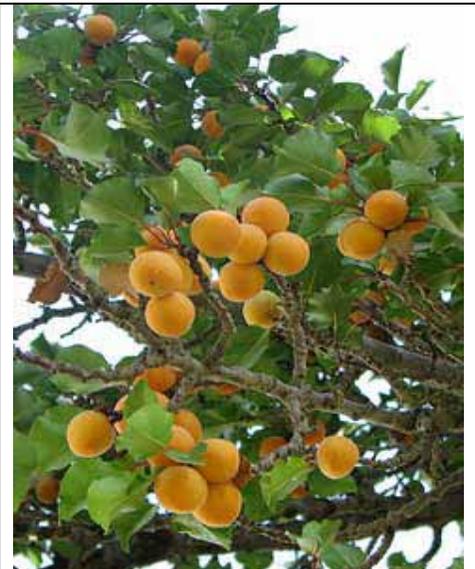
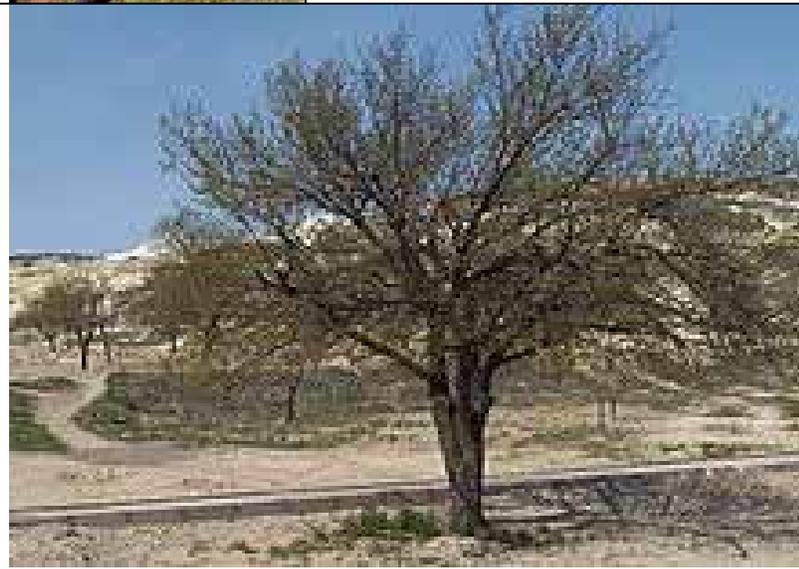
雅歌八章5节：「那靠著良人從曠野上來的，是誰呢？我在**蘋果樹**下叫醒你。你母親在那裏為你劬勞，生養你的在那裏為你劬勞。」

Song 8:5 “Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the **apple tree**: there thy mother brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth that bare thee.”

The apricot, Prunus armeniaca, is a species of Prunus, classified with the plum in the subgenus Prunus. It is a small tree, 8–12 metres (26–39 ft) tall, with a trunk up to 40 centimetres (16 in) diameter and a dense, spreading canopy. The leaves are ovate, 5–9 centimetres (2.0–3.5 in) long and 4–8 centimetres (1.6–3.1 in) wide, with a rounded base, a pointed tip and a finely serrated margin. The flowers are 2–4.5 centimetres (0.8–1.8 in) diameter, with five white to pinkish petals; they are produced singly or in pairs in early spring before the leaves.



The fruit is a drupe similar to a small peach, 1.5–2.5 centimetres (0.6–1.0 in) diameter (larger in some modern cultivars), from yellow to orange, often tinged red on the side most exposed to the sun; its surface can be smooth (botanically described as: glabrous) or with very short hairs (botanically: pubescent). The single seed is enclosed in a hard stony shell, often called a "stone", with a grainy, smooth texture except for three ridges running down one side.



Pomegranate 石榴

Punica granatum L.

No.132

雅歌四章3,13节：「你的唇好像一條朱紅線，你的嘴也秀美。你的兩太陽在帕子內，如同一塊石榴。你園內所種的結了石榴，有佳美的果子，並鳳仙花與哪噠樹。」

Song 4:3,13 “Thy lips are like a thread of scarlet, and thy speech is comely: thy temples are like a piece of a *pomegranate* within thy locks. Thy plants are an orchard of *pomegranates*, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard.”

雅歌六章7,11节：「你的兩太陽在帕子內，如同一塊石榴。我下入核桃園，要看穀中青綠的植物，要看葡萄發芽沒有，石榴 開花沒有。」

Song 6:7,11 “As a piece of a *pomegranate* are thy temples within thy locks. I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the *pomegranates* budded.”

雅歌七章12节：「我們早晨起來往葡萄園去，看看葡萄發芽開花沒有，石榴 放蕊沒有。我在那裏要將我的愛情給你。」

Song 7:12 “Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the *pomegranates* bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.”

雅歌八章2节：「我必引導你，領你進我母親的家。我可以領受教訓，也就使你喝石榴 汁釀的香酒。」

Song 8:2 “I would lead thee, and bring thee into my mother's house, who would instruct me: I would cause thee to drink of spiced wine of the juice of my *pomegranate*.”

The pomegranate, Punica granatum, is a fruit-bearing deciduous shrub or small tree growing between five and eight meters tall. The leaves are opposite or sub-opposite, glossy, narrow oblong, entire, 3–7 cm long and 2 cm broad. The flowers are bright red, 3 cm in diameter, with four to five petals (often more on cultivated plants). Some fruitless varieties are grown for the flowers alone. The edible fruit is a berry and is between a lemon and a grapefruit in size, 5–12 cm in diameter with a rounded hexagonal shape, and has thick reddish skin. The exact number of seeds in a pomegranate can vary from 200 to about 1400 seeds, contrary to some beliefs that all pomegranates have exactly the same number of seeds. Each seed has a surrounding water-laden pulp—the edible aril—ranging in color from white to deep red or purple.



Rose 玫瑰花

Tulipa sharonensis Dinsm. No.159

雅歌二章1节：「我是沙崙的**玫瑰花**（或作水仙花），是谷中的百合花。」
Song 2:1 "I am the **rose** of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys."

During the months of March and April the hills and valleys of Israel are covered with flaming red tulips lifting their goblet-shaped crowns to greet the coming spring. This modest wild flower is most probably the original forbear of the stately, dignified tulip blooms that are now cultivated the world over. Tulipa Sharonensis is one of the four species of wild tulips in Israel. It grows in the sandy loam soil of the coastal plains. The Sharon tulip is salt resistant and prefers a neutral to acid soil and full sun . It thrives where summers are dry and winters are cold . In Israel it is a perennial with flowers blooming February through March. Sharonensis is usually growing to a height of 8-12 inches.



Grapes 葡萄樹

Vitis vinifera L. No.111

雅歌一章14节：「我以我的良人爲一棵鳳仙花，在隱基底**葡萄園**中。

Song 1:14 “My beloved is unto me as a cluster of camphire in the **vineyards** of En-gedi.”

雅歌二章13,15节：「無花果樹的果子漸漸成熟，**葡萄樹** 開花放香。我的佳偶，我的美人，起來，與我同去。要給我們擒拿狐狸，就是毀壞**葡萄園**的小狐狸。因爲我們的**葡萄**正在開花。」

Song 2:13,15 “The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the **vines** with the tender **grape** give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the **vines**: for our **vines** have tender **grapes**.”

雅歌七章7-8节：「你的身量好像棕樹。你的兩乳如同其上的果子，累累下垂。

我說，我要上這棕樹，抓住枝子。願你的兩乳好像**葡萄**累累下垂，你鼻子的氣味香如蘋果。」

Song 7:7-8 “This thy stature is like to a palm tree, and thy breasts to clusters of grapes. I said, I will go up to the palm tree, I will take hold of the boughs thereof: now also thy breasts shall be as clusters of the **vine**, and the smell of thy nose like apples;”

Vitis vinifera (Grapevine) is a perennial winter-deciduous climber. It may reach a height of 20 meters, according to the tree on which it climbs. It sprouts in the spring and grows new branches. The branches carry racemose inflorescences. The Grapevine blooms in a panicle rich with tiny flowers. The axis of the inflorescences branches from the branch, and is situated opposite the leaf, similarly to the tendril. The flower has a double perianth: 5 calyx lobes and 5 green petals. The petals are usually fused at their tip, and are shed as a single unit. When the corolla sheds, the stamens and the pistil are exposed, and pollination takes place, both by wind and by insects that are attracted to the scent of the flowers and to the nectar.



The grape is the third of the seven kinds: “A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey” (Deuteronomy 8). The grapevine, its products, way of growing and parts are mentioned hundreds of times in the Bible and in the Rabbinical Literature, often as metaphors. The grapevine is often presented as a symbol for the People of Israel and their destiny, where the most familiar and powerful is the description of the situation in the End of Days in which “They shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree”.

Aloe 沉香

Aloe Vera No.206

雅歌四章14节：「有哪噠和番紅花，菖蒲和桂樹，並各樣乳香木，沒藥，沉香，與一切上等的果品。」

Song 4:14 “Spikenard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, Myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices—“

Aloe vera is a species of succulent plant that probably originated in northern Africa. Aloe vera is a stemless or very short-stemmed succulent plant growing to 60–100 cm (24–39 in) tall, spreading by offsets. The leaves are thick and fleshy, green to grey-green, with some varieties showing white flecks on the upper and lower stem surfaces. The margin of the leaf is serrated and has small white teeth. The flowers are produced in summer on a spike up to 90 cm (35 in) tall, each flower being pendulous, with a yellow tubular corolla 2–3 cm (0.8–1.2 in) long.



Known for their chief medicinal attributes, Aloe Vera Plants are used in variety of ointments and ailments that is available for cuts, rashes and burns. Besides this, Aloe Vera Plants are also utilized for the preparation of cosmetics and beauty products that will provide you glowing and beautiful skin. The sap of the Aloe Vera plant is basically a mucilaginous and a thick gel.



Almond 杏花

Amygdalus Communis. No.154

雅歌二章11-12节：「因為冬天已往。雨水止住過去了。地上百花開放。百鳥鳴叫的時候〔或作修理葡萄樹的時候〕已經來到、斑鳩的聲音在我們境內也聽見了。」

Song 2:11-12 "For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."

The almond, Amygdalus communis, is a medium sized tree with narrow, light green leaves. Unlike the fig and olive, the almond does not live to a great age. The almond is a well-known symbol of resurrection because it is the first tree to flower. The white, five-parted flowers are up to two inches across and come in the late winter before the leaves of the tree develop. Because they may flower as early as late January or early February, it is sometimes possible to find almond flowers with snow.



Almonds are mentioned six times in the Scriptures and only in the Old Testament. The first reference is in Genesis 43:11 where Jacob, in an apparent attempt to curry favor with the ruler of Egypt, orders his sons to take some of the "best products of the land" including almonds. The best-known reference to the almond is Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17). This is miraculous because the flowering, budding, and fruiting of the almond in nature are always separated in time.



The Winter Crocus 初春花

Crocus hyemalis Neot Kedumim

雅歌二章11-12节：「因為冬天已往。雨水止住過去了。地上百花開放。百鳥鳴叫的時候〔或作修理葡萄樹的時候〕已經來到、斑鳩的聲音在我們境內也聽見了。」

Song 2:11-12 "For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."

Most of the plants that are among the first to blossom after the long Israel summer are tubers and bulbs, known botanically as geophytes (geo = earth; phyte=plant). The underground bulbs store nutrients enabling the plants to weather the seven dry months and some to even bloom before the year's first rains, giving them the nickname "harbingers of the rain."

One of these geophytes is the beautiful winter crocus (Crocus hyemalis), which is common in the Mediterranean region, growing among rocks and in undergrowth. The winter crocus is a low-growing, stemless plant – 4-8 centimeters (1-3 inches) high, with a rosette of straight leaves marked by a length-wise white line.



There are some 80 species of wild crocuses ranging from Europe to Central Asia. As most of these species are located in areas that are snow-covered much of the year, the crocus has adapted itself to blossom early – before the snows begin to fall. After the flower blossoms it remains under the blanket of snow, with the leaves budding and embryonic fruit forming in spring after the snows melt.



The crocus' early blossoming evolved as a trait even in species endemic to areas without snow, such as most of the species of crocus found in Israel. Even in the regions of Israel where snow does fall we see this characteristic: the Hermon Crocus (Crocus hermoneus), an endemic Israel species found only on Mount Hermon and on the peaks of the Samaritan Mountains (near Ramallah), blooms before the onset of snow in these areas.



Frankincense 乳香

Boswellia carterii Birdw

雅歌三章6节：「那從曠野上來，形狀如煙柱，以沒藥和乳香並商人各樣香粉薰的是誰呢？」

Song 3:6 “Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and **frankincense**, with all powders of the merchant?”

雅歌四章6,14节：「我要往沒藥山和乳香岡去，直等到天起涼風，日影飛去的時候回來。有哪噠和番紅花，菖蒲和桂樹，並各樣乳香木，沒藥，沉香，與一切上等的果品。」

Song 4:6 & 14 “Until the day break, and the shadows flee away, I will get me to the mountain of myrrh, and to the hill of **frankincense**. Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of **frankincense**; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices:”

Frankincense oil is extracted from resin from the Boswellia carterii tree, of the Burseraceae family and is also known as Olibanum and gum thus. It originates from the Middle East, with abundant pinnacle leaves and has white or pale pink flowers. Deep incisions are made in the tree trunk and the bark peels off in narrow strips. Over weeks a milky juice exudes and hardens on contact with the air, resulting in an oleo gum resin, from which the oil is extracted by steam distillation. The word is from the French word 'Franc' meaning 'luxuriant' or 'real incense' and together with Myrrh, it was the first gum to be used as incense.



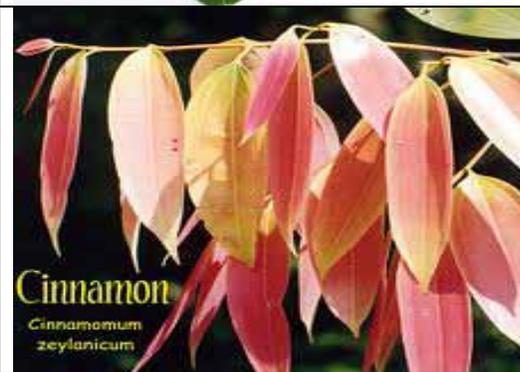
Cinnamon 桂樹

Cinnamomum zeylanicum Nees

雅歌四章14节：「有哪噠和番紅花，菖蒲和**桂樹**，並各樣乳香木，沒藥，沉香，與一切上等的果品。」

Song 4:14 “Spikenard and saffron; calamus and **cinnamon**, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices:”

Cinnamon was one of the first trade spices of the ancient world. Biblical references indicate that merchants carried the Asian spice all the way from Ceylon to Palestine – that’s a 24-hour airplane trip today – before the pyramids were built. Cinnamon is derived from closely related plant. C. zelandicum (commercial source of the spice, cinnamon). Cinnamon is a well-known spice used throughout the world and is derived from the bark of the young stems of C. zeylandicum, native to the Far East. Leaves are dark green and shiny and the flowers are small and inconspicuous. The bark is stripped, dried, and then ground to make cinnamon. The English word cinnamon derives from the Hebrew word kannamon, and the spice is mentioned in Psalms, Proverbs, Ezekiel, and Revelations. Moses, the patriarch of patriarchs, commanded the children of Israel to anoint the tabernacle, the vessels of the tabernacle, and the priests themselves with ointments made of cinnamon.



Powders 香粉

Commiphora opobalsamum (L) Engl.

雅歌三章6节：「那從曠野上來，形狀如煙柱，以沒藥和乳香並商人各樣 香粉 薰的是誰呢？」
Song 3:6 “Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all *powders* of the merchant?”

*The oil of persimmon or oil of balsam (Hebrew shemen afarsimon) is an oil that in some rabbinical sources is identified with the "precious ointment" of Psalm 133 in the Hebrew Bible. It is to be distinguished from the Holy anointing oil of the priests. According to Adin Steinsaltz the Talmud afarsimon was considered very valuable, and worth its weight in gold. No one today knows exactly what plant was used to produce the biblical oil. According to one theory, it is the plant **Commiphora opobalsamum** - a small shrub, 10 to 12 feet high, with wandlike, spreading branches. The oil extracted from the seeds or branches of this plant has been used as a medicine, but more commonly as incense or perfumed oil. In April 1988, archeologists working with the former Baptist minister Vendyl Jones discovered a small jug of oil in the Qumran region that Jones announced was the oil used in the Temple. The find was announced by the New York Times on February 15, 1989, and a feature article was published in National Geographic Magazine in October of that year. After testing by the Pharmaceutical Department of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the substance inside the juglet was said be the shemen afarsimon hinted at in Psalm 133.*



Tirzah 得撒

Crocus hyemalis/Crocus cancellatus
Crocus vitellinus/Crocus zonatus J. Gay

雅歌六章4节：「我的佳偶阿，你美麗如**得撒**，秀美如耶路撒冷，威武如展開旌旗的軍隊。」
Song 6:4 “Thou art beautiful, O my love, as **Tirzah**, comely as Jerusalem...”

*Among the first to bloom in September is **Crocus zonatus**, producing large but dainty pinkish-mauve flowers with a gold base and orange-gold anthers. Its leaves appear after the flowers. Crocus speciosus bursts into bloom with bright blue goblets having violet veinings and orange stigmas. The pure white form, albus, has a red stigma. This free-flowering gem blooms from late September into October and is particularly delightful when planted with Crocus pulchellus, which has sky-blue flowers and white anthers.*

*The species **Crocus cancellatus** grows today at colder and more isolated elevations, such as Mount Hermon, the Negev highlands, and the higher hilly areas of Judea and Samaria.*

Crocus cancellatus



Crocus zonatus J. Gay



Crocus vitellinus



Saffrons 番紅花

Crocus sativus L.

雅歌四章14节：「有哪噠和番紅花，菖蒲和桂樹，並各樣乳香木，沒藥，沉香，與一切上等的果品。」

Song 4:14 "Spikenard and Saffrons; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense;"

Saffron is mentioned in only one verse, Song of Solomon 4:14. Here it is in a garden, no doubt simply for its ornamental beauty as there is no indication in the Bible of it being used as Saffron. Crocus sativus, is the most expensive spice known. One kilogram cost over ten thousand dollars! About 150 saffron flowers are needed to produce one gram of spice. Put another way, 75, 000 flowers (225, 000 stigmata!) are needed for one pound of the final product. Leaves of saffron are grass like and only a few mm wide. However, the flowers are large and showy. They are a pinkish- purple in color and are borne close to the soil so that harvesting the flowers requires a great deal of stooping.



The species crocus sativus bears large, bluish-lilac flowers in autumn. They have a delicate aromatic scent. Pliny recorded that the benches in public theatres used to be strewn with its flowers. Sometimes the petals were dropped into fountains in public halls to diffuse the scent. As a perfume, saffron was strewn in Greek and Roman halls, courts, theatres and baths. The streets of Rome were sprinkled with saffron when Nero entered into the city.



It is surprising that the Song of Solomon is the only place in the Bible where the saffron crocus is mentioned, considering its importance in Biblical times in the East. It is also surprising in another respect, in that there were many other species of crocus in Israel, sufficient for them to have an honourable mention by the prophet Isaiah. The RSV translation of Isaiah 35 puts it like this: 'the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus' (Isaiah 35.1). With such beautiful flowers in many colours and forms, no wonder that the barren desert will in a symbolic sense 'rejoice' over such an abundant supply of delightful flowers.



Lily 百合花

Hyacinthus orientalis L./Lilium candidum L.

雅歌二章1-2,6节：「我是沙崙的玫瑰花（或作水仙花），是谷中的**百合花**。我的佳偶在女子中，好像百合花在荆棘內。良人屬我，我也屬他。他在**百合花**中牧放群羊。」

Song 2:1-2,16 “I am the rose of Sharon, and the *lily* of the valleys. As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. My beloved is mine, and I am his: he feedeth among the *lilies*.”

雅歌四章5节：「你的兩乳好像 **百合花** 中吃草的一對小鹿，就是母鹿雙生的。」

Song 4:5 “Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins, which feed among the *lilies*.”

雅歌六章2-4节：「我的良人下入自己園中，到香花畦，在園內牧放群羊，采**百合花**。

我屬我的良人，我的良人也屬我。他在**百合花**中牧放群羊。

我的佳偶阿，你美麗如得撒，秀美如耶路撒冷，威武如展開旌旗的軍隊。」

Song 6:2-4 “My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather *lilies*. I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the *lilies*. Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners.”

The hyacinth is a bulbous perennial herb in the lily family, grown for its showy and fragrant springtime flower display. Four to six shiny narrow straplike leaves and a central flower stalk emerge from the squat subterranean bulb in early to mid spring. The 12 in (30.5 cm) stalk is crowded with colorful flowers that, depending on cultivar, may be red, orange, pink, yellow, white, lavender or blue. The individual flowers are funnel shaped, single or double, and the six lobes may be strongly reflexed to merely spreading. Many have intensely sweet fragrances.



The Garden Hyacinth flowers in the early spring. They grow best in full sun to part shade in well-drained, but not dry, soil. It requires a winter dormancy period, and will only persist in cold-weather regions. It is grown for the clusters of fragrant, brightly-coloured flowers. Over 2,000 cultivars have been selected and named, with flower colour varying from blue, white, pale yellow, pink, red or purple; most cultivars have also been selected for denser flower spikes than the wild type, bearing 40–100 or more flowers on each spike.



Lily 百合花

Lilium chalcedonicum L.

雅歌五章13节：「他的兩腮如香花畦，如香草台。他的嘴唇像百合花，且滴下沒藥汁。」

Song 5:13 “His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like *lilies*, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.”

L. chalcedonicum is a relatively small lily with spirally arranged, lance-shaped, deep green leaves with silver margins, the lower leaves are spreading, the upper ones erect. In midseason, bears racemes of unpleasantly scented, recurved, bright red flowers. Grow in any soil, in full sun or partial shade. Greece, Albania. There are approximately 100 species of lilies. A bulbous perennial, that originated in wooded areas of Europe and Asia, the lily has become a favorite in gardens across the world noted for its trumpet-shaped flowers. Depending on the species, bloom time ranges from spring to fall. All lilies will prefer a well-drained location with rotted organic matter. Lilies require a cold period. While most lilies prefer acidic soil, there are a few that do best in limey soils. Spring and fall are the best time to transplant, even though they can be transplanted any time. Provide ample moisture while flowering, but can take periods of drought otherwise.



Spikenard 哪噠香膏

Nardostachys jatamansi (Wall.) P. DC.

雅歌一章12节：「王正坐席的時候，我的哪噠香膏發出香味。」

Song 1:12 “While the king sitteth at his table, my *spikenard* sendeth forth the smell thereof.”

雅歌四章13-14节：「你園內所種的結了石榴，有佳美的果子，並鳳仙花與哪噠樹。有哪噠和番紅花，菖蒲和桂樹，並各樣乳香木，沒藥，沉香，與一切上等的果品。」

Song 4:13-14 “Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with *spikenard*, *Spikenard* and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices:”

Spikenard (Nardostachys grandiflora or Nardostachys jatamansi; also called nard, is a flowering plant of the Valerian family that grows in the Himalayas of China, also found growing in the northern region of India and Nepal. The plant grows to about 1 m in height and has pink, bell-shaped flowers. It is found in the altitude of about 3000–5000 meters. Spikenard rhizomes (underground stems) can be crushed and distilled into an intensely aromatic amber-colored essential oil, which is very thick in consistency. Nard oil is used as a perfume, an incense, a sedative, and an herbal medicine said to fight insomnia, birth difficulties, and other minor ailments.



In the New Testament John 12:1–10, six days before the passover Jesus arrives in Bethany. In Bethany, Mary, sister of Lazarus uses a pound of pure nard to anoint Jesus's feet. Judas Iscariot, the keeper of the money-bag, asked why the ointment was not sold for three hundred denarii instead (about a year's wages, as the average agricultural worker received one denarius for 12 hours work: Matthew 20:2) and the money given to the poor. Two passages in parallel (Matthew 26:6–13, and Mark 14:3–9) speak of an occasion two days before the passover, in which an unnamed woman anoints Jesus's head. The costly perfume she used came from an alabaster jar, and contained nard according to the passage in Mark.



Spikenard 哪嚙樹

Rosa Phoenicia Boiss

雅歌四章13-14节：「你園內所種的結了石榴，有佳美的果子，並鳳仙花與哪嚙樹。有哪嚙和番紅花，菖蒲和桂樹，並各樣乳香木，沒藥，沉香，與一切上等的果品。」

Song 4:13-14 "Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with *spikenard*, **Spikenard** and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices:"

'An attractive wild rose of the Holy Land is **Rosa phoenicia Boiss**, which is of Mediterranean origin, flowering from May to August.'

**ROSA PHOENICEA Boiss.**

A large, climbing rose with stems to 6m, with numerous thorns. Leaflets bluish-green, usually 5, obovate or oval, very short-stalked, with broad, blunt teeth, sparsely hairy above, densely short-hairy beneath, 2-4.5cm long, 1.5-2.7cm wide, the rhachis with thorns. Stipules with fine gland-tipped teeth. Pedicels 1-3.5cm, pubescent and with stalked glands; bracts finely toothed and hairy. Flowers 3-5cm across, in a dense umbel or solitary on short shoots, white, well-scented. Outer sepals pinnatifid, 1.3-2cm long. Styles not hairy, exerted to around 6mm. Hips 1.1.2cm long, usually smooth.

Rosa phoenicia is common in damp areas along the coastal plain and on low hills in southern and western Turkey, where it flowers in late May and early June. The hairy leaves and coarse, blunt teeth are characteristic, and usually distinguish it from *Rosa sempervirens* which has shining evergreen leaves.



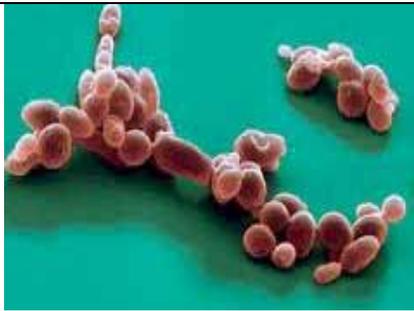
Spiced Wine 香酒

Saccharomyces ellipsoideus Reess

雅歌八章2节：「我必引導你，領你進我母親的家。我可以領受教訓，也就使你喝石榴汁釀的香酒。」

Song 8:2 "I would lead thee, and bring thee into my mother's house, who would instruct me: I would cause thee to drink of *spiced wine* of the juice of my pomegranate."

*In going through winepresses, a certain amount of juice exuded naturally into the lower vat just as a result of the weight of the grapes upon each other. This was the juice of the ripest and softest of the grapes, and was carefully gathered and kept separate from the juice later pressed out. It was the "sweet wine", "new wine" or "first wine" of Hosea 4:11, Amos 9:13, and Acts 2:13. After this had been gathered, the pressing of the grapes began through the age-old process of "treading". The juice thus expressed, of course, flowed freely into the lower vat, whence it was collected in various vessels. Sometimes this juice was preserved in the unfermented state and consumed as "must", or, as we would now say, as grapejuice, but more usually it was allowed to ferment through the enzymatic action of the wine-ferment yeast, **Saccharomyces ellipsoideus**.*



Unfermented "wine", or "must", was preserved in jars or bottles buried in the earth. Wine that was "mingled" has various spices added to it and was used at great festivals, feasts, and drinking parties.



Calamus 菖蒲

Andropogon Aromaticus

雅歌四章14节：「有哪噠和番紅花，菖蒲和桂樹，並各樣乳香木，沒藥，沉香，與一切上等的果品。」

Song 4:14 "Spikenard and saffron, *calamus* and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, Myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices—"

Hebrew words kaneh-bosem and kaneh-hattob, meaning reed of fragrance and fragrant reed, are translated "sweet cane" in our version of the Bible. The word kaneh is applied generally to a reed. This sweet cane (Isa. xliii. 24) was an aromatic reed-like plant, remarkable for its fragrance, and imported from a far country (Jer. vi. 20). It is called "calamus" in Ezek. xxvii. 19, and "sweet calamus" in Ex. xxx. 23, and was used in compounding the holy ointment.

*Solomon mentions "calamus [roosa of India] and cinna-mon, with all trees of frankincense" (Song of Sol. iv. 14). In the flourishing days of Tyre, her merchants imported calamus. After examining the statements of Dioscorides and other ancient authors, Royle concluded that the sweet cane was an aromatic grass which he has called **Andropogon calamus-aromaticus**. It is a native of India, where it is used in ointments and frankincense. It yields a fragrant oil called kuskuss, or roosa oil, or grass-oil. Koyle states that the plant is found in Central India, that it extends as far north as Delhi, and as far south as between the Godavery and Nagpore, where it is called spear-grass.*



Fir 松樹

Pinus Halepensis

雅歌一章17节：「以香柏樹為房屋的棟樑，以松樹為椽子。」

Song 1:17 "The beams of our houses are cedar, and our rafters of fir."

Pinus halepensis, the Aleppo pine, is generally found at low altitudes, mostly from sea level to 200 metres (660 ft). It is a small to medium-size tree, 15–25 metres (49–82 ft) tall, with a trunk diameter of up to 60 centimetres (24 in), exceptionally up to 1 m (3 ft 3 in). The leaves ("needles") are very slender, 6–12 cm (2.4–4.7 in) long, distinctly yellowish green and produced in pairs. In Israel, the Aleppo Pine has been very successful in Yatir Forest in the northern Negev, where foresters had not expected it to survive. Native Aleppo pine forests can also be found in the Carmel and Galilee regions.

Pinus halepensis is a popular ornamental tree, extensively planted in gardens, parks, and private and agency landscapes in hot dry areas, where the Aleppo Pine's considerable heat and drought tolerance, fast growth, and aesthetic qualities, are highly valued.

