



What is Tu B'Shevat?

Tu B'Shevat acts as a "New Year" for calculating the age of trees.

The Birthday for Trees

A Day of Judgment

It is the judgment day for fruit trees, so it is a special time to pray for a successful harvest and healthy produce for the coming year.

This date marks the time in Israel when the winter rains have soaked the soil enough for new trees to take root and for existing trees to start waking up from winter.

A Harbinger of Spring

Key Rituals of Tu B'shvat

Tu B'Shevat Seder: A special meal featuring various fruits with shells, peels and pips. It includes four glasses of wine (like on Passover) progressing from white to red.

Tu B'Shevat is an auspicious time to **plant trees**. Sponsor a tree in Israel's forests or orchards through organizations like the JNF.

Scan this QR code to go to JNF's site to donate and learn more about their work planting trees in Israel



Contact tikvah@kadimacoaching.org for how to use our info in your school.

**TU
B'SHVAT
15 Shevat**
ט"ו בשבט

**NEW YEAR FOR
THE FRUIT TREES**

**Tu b'Shevat in
Jewish Texts?**

The **Mishnah Rosh Hashanah 1:1** lists four different "New Years" on the calendar.

Each one marks the new year for a specific purpose – Tu B'Shevat is the new year for the trees.

There are four New Years: on the first of Nisan is the New Year for kings and the Festivals.

On the first of Elul is the New Year for animal offerings... On the first of Tishrei is the New Year for the calendar, for Sabbatical Years and Jubilee Years, for planting... But Beit Hillel says:

The New Year for trees is on the fifteenth of Shevat.



Why Does Tu B'Shevat Matter?

Tu b'Shevat awakens our appreciation and responsibility towards nature and caring for the environment.

Celebrating Nature

Agriculture

Tu B'Shevat signals the time of year when the ground is finally wet enough from winter rains for new trees to be planted and survive.



Ancient seeds found in the City of David's ancient drainage pipe, including olive, grape seeds, and other grains.



Wine and Grapes: Believe it or not, about 1,500 years ago, the ancient city of Yavne held the title for the largest wine factory in the entire world.



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How can we care for the environment to celebrate Tu B'Shevat?



The Holiday in Ancient Israel

Calculating a Tree's Age for Offerings and Tithes: In ancient times, farmers used this date to track a tree's age and determine which year its fruit belonged to, when offering it to the Temple.

The "Seven Species" in the Land—wheat, barley, olives, dates, grapes, figs, and pomegranates—were the staple foods of ancient Israel and used as offerings in the Temple. These fruits are still abundantly grown and enjoyed in Israel today!



In the time of the Temple, olive oil wasn't just for cooking—it was the essential 'fuel' for Jewish spiritual life. It:

Kept the holy Menorah burning in the Temple every single day.



Played a key role in sacrifices, was used to anoint the Kings of Israel.



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