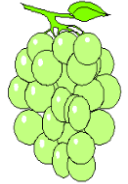


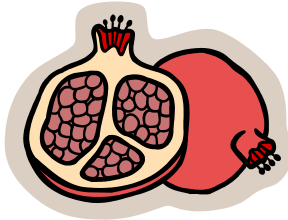


# Tu B'Shevat



**Tu B'Shevat** is a Jewish holiday celebrating the **New Year of the Trees**. The name literally means the 15th day of the Hebrew month of *Shevat*. *Tu B'Shevat* usually falls between mid-January and mid-February on the Gregorian calendar.

## Traditional Foods and Customs:

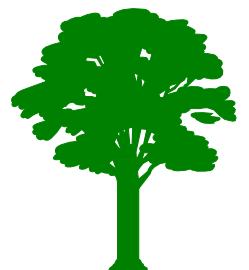


Certain foods are customarily served on *Tu B'Shevat*. These include: olives, oranges, dates, grapes, figs, pomegranates, almonds, and carob. Many of these are mentioned in the Bible as fruits that naturally grow in Israel.

Many synagogues and Jewish schools hold a *Tu B'Shevat Seder*. This ceremony is based on a tradition initiated by Jewish mystics in the sixteenth century. The *Tu B'Shevat Seder*, similar in some ways to a Passover *Seder*, may include blessings over four cups of wine or grape juice and various fruits, as well as readings, stories, songs and prayers that speak of the trees and vegetation of Israel.

To celebrate the New Year of the trees, it is customary to plant trees in Israel. People living outside Israel often do this by making donations to the Jewish National Fund (JNF), the official organization responsible for planting trees in Israel. Often trees are planted in honor, or in memory, of family and friends.

To contact the Jewish National Fund about planting trees in Israel, you may either call 1-888-JNF-0099, or visit their web site at <http://www.jnf.org> .



For more information check out this great on-line resource:

[http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish\\_Holidays/Tu\\_Bishvat.shtm](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Tu_Bishvat.shtm)  
!

