



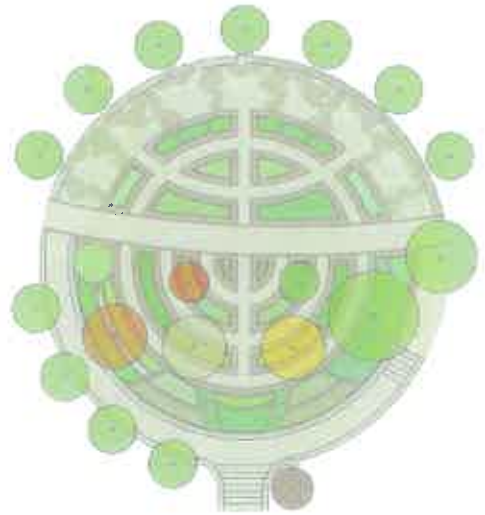
THE BIBLE GARDEN



AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE



The Bible Garden



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The Bible Garden was established with a benevolent grant from The Bible Garden Trust, a perpetual trust established by the late Gerald Hercules Robinson. The purpose of the trust is to create and maintain gardens that feature the botany that is described in the Bible, and through these activities to provide for teaching related to the Bible Garden for visitors to the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.

The Bible Garden was officially opened by, among others, Sir William Deane, AC, KBE, QC, former Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, at a ceremony held in the garden on Sunday, 3 August 2008.

As with all gardens, and our own personal spiritual journey, The Bible Garden is a work in progress.

We also acknowledge:

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The Bible Garden is a sacred place:
for solitude, personal reflection and learning.

It is made holy by:
the source of its inspiration
the dedication of those who made it
by our thoughtful presence.

The Bible is the story of seekers just like us
thousands of years ago.

Here for a moment we can feel united to them in
quiet wonder.

Through these common garden plants we reach out
to our long-ago spiritual brothers and sisters.

We admire their courage in holding fast to truth as
it was unfolded before them;
we are uplifted by the beautiful expression of their
relationship with the Divine.

Almond

Prunus dulcis

Genesis 43:11, Numbers 17:8



The almond and hazel are mentioned together in a curious story of Jacob tending Laban's flocks. The almond blossom was a motif in the design of the menorah. A piece of almond was Aaron's rod that budded. God showed a rod of almond to the young Jeremiah; by changing the vowel in the Hebrew word for almond, it came to mean "I watch over my word to perform it", thus emphasising that God would see that his word came to pass.

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

God said to Noah, "I am establishing my covenant with you." (Genesis 9:8-9)

Anemone

Anemone coronaria

Matthew 6:28-30



These are wild field flowers in Palestine and almost certainly the wild anemones that were referred to by Jesus as the lilies of the field in his sermon on the mount, as they still grow wild near the Lake of Galilee.



Consider the lilies of the field. Even Solomon was not clothed like one of these. Will [God] not much more clothe you? Therefore do not worry. Strive first for the kingdom of God, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6: 28-33)

Apricot

Prunus armeniaca

Genesis 2:9



The apricot tree has been planted for the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The tradition that this tree in the Bible story was an apple has arisen because the word in the Hebrew and Greek originally meant any round palatable fruit. Later on this same word became specialised to mean apple only. The apple did not grow in ancient Palestine and the apricot is still known as “the apple of gold” in the East.



In the beginning God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. (Genesis 1:3)

God created humankind in his image. (Genesis 1:27)

Aromatic Cane

Iris psuedacorus

Exodus 30:23



The aromatic cane from the dried rhizome was ground up and used along with other ingredients to produce holy anointing oil, as instructed by God through Moses.



Remember the sabbath and keep it holy.
(Exodus 20:8)

Barley

Hordeum spontaneum

Deuteronomy 8:7-9



Barley represents a land of fullness where life can be lived with prosperity.



For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday
when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

(Psalm 90:4)

Bay Tree or Laurel

Laurus nobilis

Psalm 37:35



It was with wreaths of the fragrant leaves of the bay tree or laurel that the ancient Greeks and Romans adorned their priests, poets, heroes and victors in the games. Its leaves still have culinary use and various parts of the tree have been employed in medicine.



Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their
strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.
(Isaiah 40:31)

Bean

Phaseolus vulgaris

2 Samuel 17:28, Daniel 1:12



Broad beans remind us of hospitality. "When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi brought beans and lentils for David and the people with him to eat; for they said, 'The troops are hungry.'" The ingredients of the pulse on which the young Daniel and his companions thrived most probably included lentils, peas and beans, and it proved to be a more health-giving diet than the rich foods of the court of Babylon.



My child, keep sound wisdom and prudence. Then
you will walk on your way securely, and your foot
will not stumble. (Proverbs 3:21, 23)

Black Cummin

Nigella damascene

Isaiah 28:25-28



In Isaiah, instructions are given for the planting and harvesting of various seeds and their resulting plants including this one. Moreover different techniques are to be used for the harvesting of each plant.



I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the
garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the
robe of righteousness.
(Isaiah 61:10)

Boxwood

Buxus sempervirens

Isaiah 41:19, 60:13



The Bible mentions the box tree of Lebanon and those imported from the islands of the Mediterranean. The city of Tyre's ships had seats of boxwood inlaid with ivory. "I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together." (KJV)



He will feed His flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.
(Isaiah 40:11)

Bramble

Rubus idaeus for *Rubus sanguineus*

Luke 6:44, Numbers 33:55



Among the many thorns and thistles, the bramble referred to the difficulties of life. In Luke it is compared with a tree and vines known for their useful fruit, as opposed to the uselessness of the bramble.



If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. (Luke 9:23)

Carob

Ceratonia siliqua

Luke 15:16



This round-leaved tree is a carob bean or locust bean, also sometimes known as St John's Bread. It produces bean-like pods that contain a sweet white pith around the seeds. It is certainly the source of the husks in the parable of the Prodigal Son. There is some doubt as to whether John the Baptist ate the fruit of this tree or the locust insects, which are eaten roasted in Palestine. The Hebrew words for carob and locust were similar and may have been transposed.

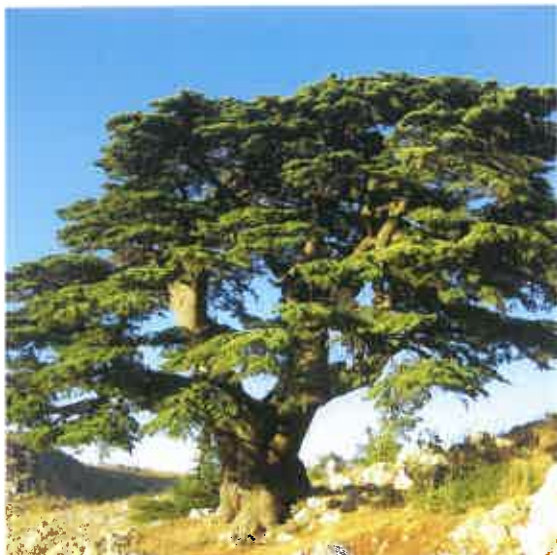


By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the
shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.
(Luke 1:78-79)

Cedar of Lebanon

Cedrus libani

Numbers 24:6



The cedar of Lebanon growing in its native conditions can reach a height of about 35 m and the top becomes more spreading as the tree grows older. It was the noblest and largest tree known in Israel, and there are numerous Bible references to it. Solomon lined the inside walls of the temple with boards of cedar.



Give the members of your community a fair hearing, and judge rightly between one person and another, whether citizen or resident or alien.
(Deuteronomy 1:16)

Coriander

Coriandrum sativum

Exodus 16:31, Numbers 11:7



God fed the people in the wilderness with manna, a source of which was perhaps a lichen growing on rocks, which was small and round "like coriander seed". Coriander is an annual herb.



You must not be partial in judging; hear out the small and the great alike; you shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgement is God's.
(Deuteronomy 1:17)

Crocus or Meadow Saffron

Colchicum autumnale

Isaiah 35:1



The crocus was the source of saffron, used as a dye and as a condiment. The saffron flower has a bright orange stigma from which the saffron was obtained. Saffron was present in the garden of Solomon.



Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near.
(Isaiah 55:6)

Cucumber

Cucumis sativus

Numbers 11:5, Isaiah 1:8



During the exodus some people complained about the luxuries they had lost in following God: “We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”



When a man or a woman wrongs another, breaking faith with the LORD, that person incurs guilt and shall confess the sin that has been committed. The person shall make full restitution for the wrong, adding one fifth to it. (Numbers 5:6–7)

Cummin

Cuminum cyminum

Isaiah 28:25, Matthew 23:23



The Pharisees tithed cummin, but neglected the more important matters of judgment and the love of God. Leaders are not to be too overbearing: “Do those who plough for sowing plough continually? When they have levelled its surface, do they not scatter dill, and sow cummin?”



Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
(Isaiah 40:28)

Cyclamen

Cyclamen hederifolium

Luke 12:27



Cyclamen are closely related to species native to the Holy Land. “Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.”



Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you, pray for those who
abuse you. (Luke 6:27)

Dill or Anise

Anethum graveolens

Matthew 23:23



Dill is the plant called “anise” in the New Testament that the Pharisees chose to tithe rather than to attend to the more important matters of judgment and the love of God.



Strive first for the kingdom of God and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)

Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:20–21)

Dog Chamomile

Anthemis nobilis

Isaiah 40:6–8, 1 Peter 1:24–25



This is one of the flowers of the field growing in the steppes and deserts of Israel and referring to the fleeting nature of the flowers of the field as opposed to God’s eternal love.



The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
(Isaiah 40:8)

Endive

Indiva riccia

Numbers 9:11



Endive was probably one of the “bitter herbs” eaten with the Passover lamb. “In the second month on the fourteenth day, at twilight, they shall keep it; they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.”



The righteousness of the blameless keeps
their ways straight,
but the wicked fall by their own wickedness.
(Proverbs 11:5)

Fig Tree

Ficus carica

Mark 11:13–14, 20–21; 13:28–29



The fig tree is the only plant cursed by Jesus. He uses a particular fig tree as an example of something that is unproductive. It is also used by Jesus as an example of signs of the future. As its leaves begin to come out one knows that summer is near, so one can watch the signs of the time for the coming of the end of history.



Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and
servant of all. (Mark 9:35)

Flax

Linum usitatissimum

Isaiah 19:9, John 19:40



Flax was woven into linen cloth, including that used as Jesus' burial cloth. "They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews." Also, the "smoking flax" in Isaiah 42:3 (KJV) refers to tow or waste flax used as wicks for lamps.

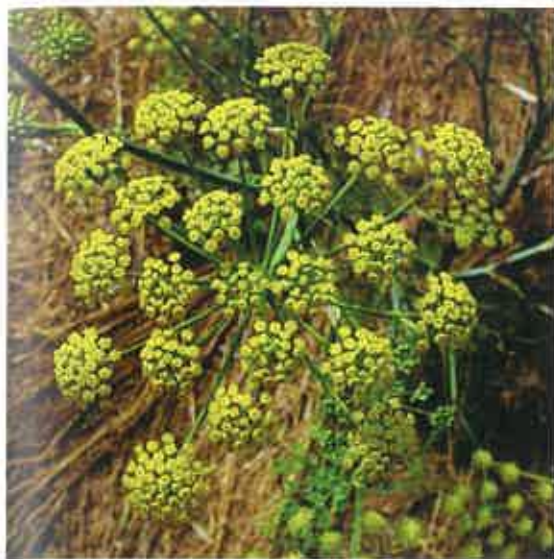


You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. (John 5:39-40)

Galbanum

Foeniculum vulgare for *Ferula galbaniflua*

Exodus 30:34



Galbanum is an unusual spice. Exodus 30:34 is the only reference regarding galbanum in the Bible, where it is listed as a constituent of the holy incense, as instructed by God through Moses.



Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.

(Luke 9:24)

Garden Rocket

Eruca sativa

2 Kings 4:39-40



This is a pot herb that was gathered from the fields and used for soups and salads.



Honour the LORD with your substance
and with the first fruits of all your produce.
(Proverbs 3:9)

Garlic

Allium sativum

Numbers 11:5



During the exodus some complained about the luxuries they lost in following God: "We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."



The LORD is slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love,
forgiving iniquity and transgression.
(Numbers 14:18)

Gourd

Cucurbita pepo

2 Kings 4:38-41



These fruits are deceptively attractive as in the memorable meal where the guests initially thought they were being poisoned but were finally satisfied.



The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
(Psalm 103:8)

Grape

Vitius vinifera

Genesis 9:20, John 15:1-6



Jesus said, "I am the true vine." He used familiar everyday things for his parables, and a grape vine was quite likely within sight when he first spoke these words. In winter the branches lose their leaves and the vine has to be pruned if it is to flourish again and bear fruit well. As the cut-off branches are fruitless, useless and dead away from the parent plant, so are Christians who are not abiding in Jesus Christ and thus sharing in his life.



If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
(John 15:7)

Holly Oak or Holm

Quercus ilex

2 Samuel 18:9, Isaiah 44:14



Absalom, David's son, who rebelled against him, was killed when his head was caught in the branches of a holly oak.



Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near.
(Isaiah 55:6)

Hollyhock

Alcea setosa

Job 6:6-7, 30:1-4



Job regarded the salty leaves of the hollyhock and mallow used in stews as “tasteless” and “loathsome” compared with those who lived in poverty, who accepted such flavours as a basic food for survival.



As for me, I would seek God,
and to God I would submit my cause.
He does great things and unsearchable,
marvellous things without number.
(Job 5:8-9)

Hyacinth

Hyacinthus orientalis

Song of Solomon 6:2-3



The oriental hyacinth is referred to as lily in the Song of Solomon in the description of Solomon's garden. Wild species are very fragrant and cover the hillsides in Israel in spring with blue.



The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

(Psalm 19:1)

Hyssop

Origanum syriacum

Exodus 12:22, Psalm 51:7



Hyssop is a shrub that was used as a medicine and for the ritual sprinkling of water and blood.



LORD, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting
you are God.

(Psalm 90:1-2)

Iris

Iris florentina
Ecclesiasticus 50:8



This verse refers to lilies growing by a spring of water. In this case it is likely that the lily could have been any one of the fifty or so species of iris found in the Holy Land. The roots of the plant were used for perfumes and traditional remedies.



Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false.
(Psalm 24:3-4)

Judas Tree

Cercis siliquastrum
Matthew 27:3-5



Although not specified as the type of tree, the Judas tree was believed to have a red bud and grew in the Holy Land. It has traditionally been related to failure or forsakenness.



Love your enemies that you may be children of
your Father in heaven; for he makes the sun shine
on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the
righteous and on the unrighteous.
(Matthew 5:44-45)

Juniper

Juniperus virginiana for *Juniperus drupacea*

1 Kings 19:4



The juniper is believed to be the plant (called “broom” in some translations) under which the prophet Elijah rested after his tremendous and successful contest with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.



You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.
(Leviticus 19:2)

Laurestinus

Viburnum awabuki for *Viburnum tinus*

Isaiah 41:19, 60:13



This species was likely mentioned in the text as a pine tree or a box tree. However, as an attractive ornamental, it would beautify the place of sanctuary.

If you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
(Isaiah 58:10)

Leek

Allium porrum

Numbers 11:5



During the exodus some complained about the luxuries they lost in following God: “We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”



The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

(Psalm 27:1)

Lemon

Citrus limon for *Citrus medica*

Leviticus 23:40



The valuable health-giving properties of citrus fruit were appreciated in very ancient times, in the citron or etrog tree, which is the “goodly fruit” mentioned in Leviticus. First fruits of this tree were offered in thanksgiving to God, as well as first fruits of the grain harvests. The citron fruit is like a large lemon, somewhat elongated, and a sweeter taste.



You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin.
You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge, but
you shall love your neighbour as yourself.

(Leviticus 19:17-18)

Lentils

Lens culinaris

Genesis 25:34, Daniel 1:12



Lentils were the main ingredient of the pottage that Jacob had cooked and Cain desired to eat after he came in from hunting. The ingredients of the pulse on which the young Daniel and his companions thrived most probably included lentils, peas and beans, and it proved to be a more health-giving diet than the rich foods of the court of Babylon.



O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.
(Psalm 107:1)

Lettuce

Lactuca sativa

Exodus 12:8



Lettuce was probably one of the "bitter herbs" eaten with the Passover lamb. Leaves of lettuce that are allowed to grow unblanched develop a bitter taste.



Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendour, doing wonders?
(Exodus 15:11)

Lupin

Lupinus species

James 1:9–10



Lupins are wild flowers in Israel. The passing flowers remind us of our mortality, and the passing nature of all power and wealth. “Let the believer who is lowly boast in being raised up, and the rich in being brought low, because the rich will disappear like a flower in the field.”



The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

(James 3:17)

Madonna Lily

Lilium candidum

Song of Solomon 2:1-2



The madonna lily traditionally has been associated with the Virgin Mary, mother of our Lord, and is a symbol of purity. In earlier times it was much more plentiful than now in sheltered spots in Galilee. It was introduced into Europe during the time of the Crusades and was very widely cultivated.



I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
(Psalm 34:1)

Mint

Mentha sativa

Matthew 23:23, Luke 11:42



Mint reminds us of Jesus' reproof words to the Pharisees. They tithed mint, and rue and all kinds of herbs, but neglected the more important matters of judgment and the love of God.



Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (Matthew 24:42)

Mulberry

Morus nigra

Luke 17:6



By using the example of the mulberry tree Jesus pointed to what can become a large tree. It is contrasted with the mustard seed, so that faith can be begin as small as a mustard seed and become as large as a mulberry tree.



You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

Mustard

Brassica juncea

Matthew 13:31-32, 17:20



Jesus referred to mustard in one of his parables. He also spoke of the mustard seed of the plant *Brassica nigra*, which is very common in the Holy Land and throughout Europe. In favourable conditions this plant will grow into the large shrub in which small birds could build their nests, as described by Jesus.



To all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.
(Matthew 25:26)

Myrtle

Myrtus communis

Nehemiah 8:15, Zechariah 1:8-11



A glorious future was foretold for Israel and it was Zechariah who saw the horsemen among the myrtles. It is one of the four plants Jews use for the Feast of Tabernacles: "Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written."



Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God"
(Psalm 14:1)

Narcissus

Narcissus tazetta

Matthew 6:30



Narcissus tazetta is thought to be the plant referred to in “the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose” (Isaiah 35:1, KJV). The leaves come up and flowers appear in early spring. It is an Israeli wild flower, like a jonquil, with cream petals and a lemon centre cup, sweetly fragrant.



Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. (Matthew 7:13)

Nettle

Acanthus mollis for *Acanthus syriacus*

Job 30:7



The *acanthus* is believed by some scholars to be the plant called nettles in some places in the Bible. At any rate, the acanthus plant is the origin of the leaf design used by the Greeks in the capitals of Corinthian columns.



Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.
(Psalm 34:13–14)

Oats

Avena sativa
Genesis 1:11-12



Modern food grains of wheat, barley and others have been developed from what were originally wild grasses.



Fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve [him] with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deuteronomy 10:12)

Oleander or Rose Laurel

Nerium oleander
Ecclesiasticus 24:14, 39:13



In the Bible the oleander is called a rose. In olden times the words for roses and lilies were used in a loose way to indicate any beautiful flowers of these types. The oleander is very abundant around Jericho, where it is doubtful whether roses ever flourished except in gardens, although seven different species of the genus *Rosa* grow in Palestine.



Happy are those [whose] delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.
(Psalm 1:1-2)

Olive

Olea europaea

Genesis 8:11



When the waters of the Great Flood began to subside, Noah sent out a dove from the ark, which came back to him that evening holding an olive leaf in her beak. This is the first mention of this tree in the Bible, but there are many others, highlighting its uses for cosmetics and cleansing and fuel for lamps. But above all olive oil was used for disinfecting, cleansing and healing wounds by the Good Samaritan.



What are human beings that you are
mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honour.
(Psalm 8:4-5)

Onion

Allium cepa

Numbers 11:5



Onions were among the desired foods of Egypt longingly remembered by the Children of Israel as they journeyed through the wilderness towards the Promised Land.



You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach
me wisdom in my secret heart. (Psalm 51:6)

Palm

Phoenix canariensis for *Phoenix dactylifera*

John 12:12-13



The palm of the scriptures is the date palm. Dates have always been an important food and the date palm is referred to many times in the Bible. "The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 13 So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!'"



If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. (John 8:31-32)

Papyrus

Cyperus papyrus

Isaiah 18:1-2



This plant grew prolifically along the Nile and was used for building boats.



This is the one to whom I will look,
to the humble and contrite in spirit,
who trembles at my word.
(Isaiah 66:2)

Pea

Pisus sativum

Genesis 25:34, 2 Samuel 17:28, Daniel 1:12



Peas were an ingredient of the pottage that Jacob had cooked and Cain desired to eat after he came in from hunting. The ingredients of the pulse on which the young Daniel and his companions thrived most probably included lentils, peas and beans, and it proved to be a more health-giving diet than the rich foods of the court of Babylon.



The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple.
(Psalm 19:7)

Pistachio

Pistacia vera

Genesis 43:11



The pistachio and the almond were nuts included in the present that Jacob's sons brought to Pharaoh when there was a drought in their land of Canaan and they desired to buy corn from Egypt.



Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of
my heart be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.
(Psalm 19:14)

Pomegranate

Punica granatum

Exodus 28:34



The pomegranate was one of the pleasant fruits of Egypt, one of the promised blessings of the new land, and is referred to many times in the Old Testament. Fruit of the pomegranate was a decorative motif on the priests' robe and in the Temple.



The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart,
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes.
(Psalm 19:8)

Poppy

Papaver somniferum

Isaiah 40:6



The oriental poppy was the source of the gall that was offered to Jesus when he was being crucified. The juice of this plant was a sleep-inducing narcotic. Its flowers are pale lavender, with a deep purple centre. It appears that other references in the scriptures to "gall" are to other bitter or poisonous plants, such as hemlock and others.



The mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you
says the LORD.
(Isaiah 54:10)

Ranunculus

Ranunculus species

Matthew 6:28–30, Luke 12:27



Ranunculuses are wild field flowers in Palestine and almost certainly were referred to by Jesus as the lilies of the field in his sermon on the mount, as they still grow wild there near the Lake of Galilee and generally throughout the land.



Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28–30)

Rock-rose

Cistus salvifolius

Genesis 37:25, 43:11



A species of the rock-rose was the source of laudanum gum, one of the ingredients of the incense myrrh. It grows on rocky hillsides of the Holy Land, and it is said that the laudanum was first found attached to the beards of goats that had been cropping the plant in the heat of the day, at which time the gum comes out in certain seasons of the year.



The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want.
He restores my soul.
He leads me in the right paths.
(Psalm 23:1, 3)

Rose

Rosa moschate
Song of Solomon 2:1



While this was more likely to be a crocus or narcissus, roses are believed to have grown in the Holy Land.



Happy are those who find wisdom,
and those who get understanding,
for her income is better than silver,
and her revenue better than gold.
(Proverbs 3:13-14)

Rue

Ruta graveolens
Luke 11:42



Along with mint, rue reminds us of Jesus' reproof words to the Pharisees that they tithed mint and rue and all kinds of herbs, but neglected the more important matters of judgment and the love of God.



No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. (Luke 9:62)

Sage

Salvia

Exodus 37:17-18



The shape of the pure gold lampstand, with its seven branches (or the menorah), could have been inspired by the wild Judean sage.



“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, LORD, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.
(Psalm 27:8-9)

Shittah Tree

Acacia mearnsii for *Acacia seyal*

Isaiah 41:19



The *acacia* tree is the same as the *shittah* tree, the source of the *shittim* wood, with which Moses was commanded to make the sacred box in which the tablets of the law were kept, known as the Ark of the Covenant.



The sun shall no longer be your light by day,
nor the moon by night;
but the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.
(Isaiah 60:19)

Stone Pine

Pinus picea

Isaiah 41:19, 60:13



This pine tree is of a kind native to Israel. Trees designated as “firs” and “thick trees” cannot now be certainly identified with particular species.



But this is the one to whom I will look,
to the humble and contrite of spirit,
who trembles at my word.
(Isaiah 66:2)

Walnut

Juglans regia

Song of Solomon 6:11



The walnut is the symbol of a fertile garden, in which also many other fruits thrive.



O LORD, you have searched me and known me,
and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a
word is on my tongue. (Psalm 139:1, 3-4)

Wheat (Emmer)

Triticum dicoccum

Proverbs 27:22, Isaiah 28:25, John 12:24



This plant is used as an example in the teachings of the Old and New Testaments. One cannot separate fools from foolishness as one separates grain from husk. Again, a seed properly planted can bear much fruit.



Those who love their life in this world will lose it,
and those who hate their life in this world will keep
it for eternal life. (John 12:25)

White Broom

Genista monosperma for *Retama raetum*

1 Kings 19:4, Job 30:3-4, Psalm 120:3-4



When Elijah fled to the desert, one of the few plants offering shade was the white broom and, although insignificant, it would have been better than nothing. In Job, the roots of the broom were burnt as charcoal to keep the poor warm at night, and the burnt coals were also used to fashion arrowheads.



How can young people keep their way pure? By
guarding it according to your word. I treasure your
word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.
(Psalm 119:9, 11)

Wormwood

Artemisia absinthium

Proverbs 5:4, Revelation 8:11



In the Bible wormwood is associated with misery and anguish. "I am feeding this people with wormwood, and giving them poisonous water to drink," (Jeremiah 9:15) and, "The lips of a loose woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood."



Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.

In all your ways acknowledge him,
And he will make straight your paths.

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

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Apart from The Bible Garden, these other features can be seen and enjoyed at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.

The Mural Wall

The Place of Meeting

The Avenue

The Shelter

The Pilgrim Poles

The Labyrinth

The Outdoor Chapel

Protected Grasslands

The Great Cross and Pool

This book features the plants in The Bible Garden located within the precincts of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra, Australia's national capital.

The Bible Garden was established with a benevolent grant from The Bible Garden Trust, a perpetual trust established by the late Gerald Hercules Robinson. The purpose of the trust is to create and maintain gardens that feature the botany described in the Bible, and through this activity to educate people, particularly young people, in the scriptures.

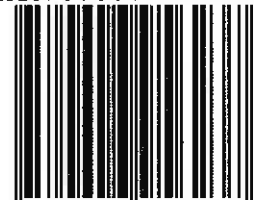
The shape of the garden resembles the menorah, which is said to represent the burning bush where Moses saw the angel who told him to lead the Israelites to a land of milk and honey.

Each plant is listed with its common and botanical names, a photo and a short description, and where it is mentioned in the Bible.



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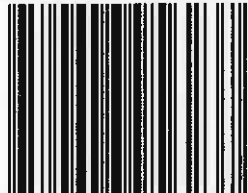
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THE BIBLE GARDEN

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