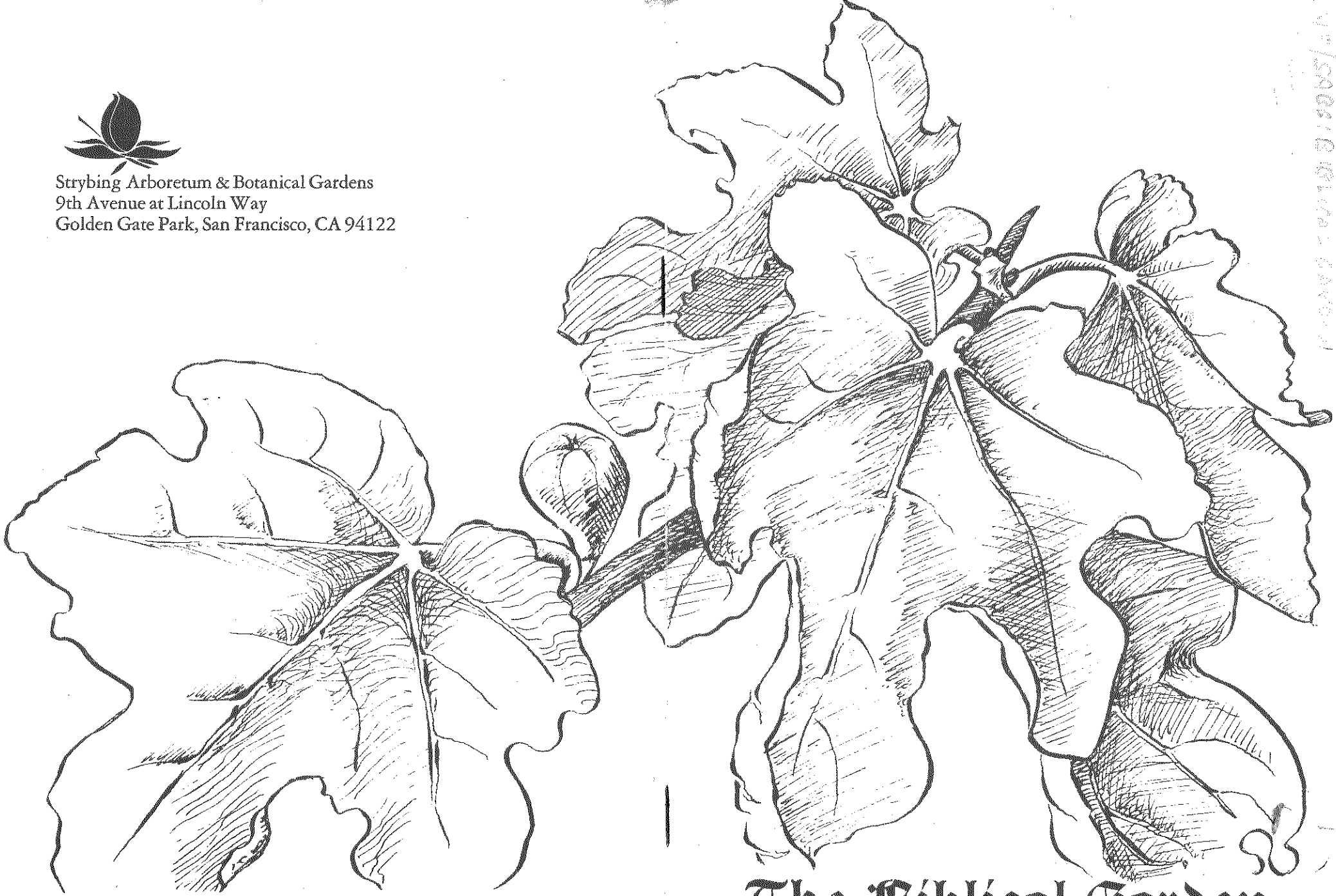





Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens  
9th Avenue at Lincoln Way  
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94122



*Ficus carica*

# The Biblical Garden

STRYBING ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDENS  
GOLDEN GATE PARK  SAN FRANCISCO

U.S. / SAN FRANCISCO / GOLDEN GATE PARK

# The Biblical Garden

Welcome to the Biblical Garden, a collection of plants mentioned in the writings of the Bible *or* thought to be growing at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea during Biblical times. Plants at that time were a very important part of the everyday lives of the people of that region, providing not only food, but medicine, fragrance, seasoning, clothing, shelter, and fuel. The importance of plants to these people is shown in the frequent reference to plants in the passages of the Bible quoted herein.

Today, many of these same plants can be found as relatively common garden plants, particularly in California where the climate matches the summer-dry climate of the eastern Mediterranean. Many of the biblical plants are still used for seasoning and fragrance.

At Strybing the Biblical Garden is located next to the Garden of Fragrance since many of the plants are repeated in each garden because of their fragrant flowers or aromatic foliage. The Biblical Garden plantings have been attractively landscaped to suggest the potential use of these plants in home landscapes.

Evergreen shrubs and groundcovers make up the majority of the plantings with seasonal interest provided by the flowering of fruit trees, perennials and bulbs. Annuals native to the biblical lands will be allowed to "naturalize" throughout the garden.

## A NOTE ABOUT NAMES

There is still some confusion and controversy over the names of plants mentioned in the Bible, particularly with regard to the many plants referred to as "lilies" or "roses". In most instances, Moldenke's *Plants of the Bible* was followed. Recent authors have challenged some of his names, and as research continues into the plants of the Biblical lands, there will surely be further changes.



*This label denotes plants in  
The Biblical Garden*



*Cistus salvifolius*

1 ROCKROSE ("myrrh")

*Cistus incanus creticus*

*C. ladanifer*

*C. salvifolius*

*Helianthemum nummularium*

2 SUNROSE ("myrrh")

Hebrew: MOR

Use: medicine, perfume

"I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon."

PROVERBS 7:17

3 (TRAILING) CEDAR OF LEBANON

Hebrew: EREZ

Use: construction

"... and cedars made be to be as the sycamore trees that are in the lowland, for abundance."

II CHRONICLES 1:15

*Cedrus libani 'Pendula'*

4 APRICOT ("apple")

Hebrew: TAPURAH

Use: food

"a word fully spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver."

PROVERBS 25:11

*Prunus armeniaca*

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of fruit thereof, and did eat, and she gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat."

GENESIS 3:6

5 SAVIN JUNIPER ("heath") *Juniperus sabina 'Buffalo'*

Hebrew: ROTHEN

Uses: fuel, shade plant

"Thus saith the Lord; Cursed is the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like a Tamarisk (beach) in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, a salt land and not inhabited."

JEREMIAH 17:5-6

6 (COMPACT) MYRTLE *Myrtus communis 'Compacta'*

Hebrew: HADAS

Use: perfume

"And they found written in the Law, how that the Lord had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month;

And that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities, and in Jerusalem, saying; "Go forth unto the mount, and fetch olive branches, and branches of wild olive, and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written."

NEHEMIAH 8:14-15

7 ROSEMARY ("spices")

Hebrew: BALSAM or BALM

R. o. 'Lockwood de Forest'

Use: seasoning

"And their father Israel said unto them; "If it be so now, do this: take of the choice fruits of the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spicery, and ladanum, nuts, and almonds."

GENESIS 43:11

*Rosmarinus officinalis*

8 WHITE BROOM

Hebrew: RITHMAH

"And they journeyed from Hazeroth, and pitched in Rithmah."

NUMBERS 33:18-19

*Genista monosperma*

9 FIG *Ficus carica* 'Brown Turkey'  
 Hebrew: T'AYNAH  
 Use: food  
 "But they shall sit every man under his vine, and under his fig-tree and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken."  
 MICAH 4:4

10 VIOLET *Viola odorata* 'Royal Elk'  
 (One of many "flowers of the field")  
 Hebrew: TZITZ  
 "All flesh is grass, And the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field; The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: . . . But the word of our God shall stand forever."  
 ISAIAH 40:6,8

11 CAPER *Capparis spinosa*  
 Hebrew: T'APHER  
 Use: condiment  
 "And the almond tree shall blossom, and the grasshopper shall drag itself along, and the caper berry shall fail . . ." ECCLESIASTES 12:5



12 LAVENDER ("herbs") *Lavendula stoechas*  
 Hebrew: YEREK  
 Use: perfume  
 "And Ahab spoke unto Naboth, saying: 'Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house; and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it, or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.'  
 I KINGS 21:2

13 TAMARISK ("grove") *Tamarix chinensis*  
 Hebrew: AYSHEL  
 Use: construction, fuel, medicine  
 "And Abraham planted a Tamarisk-Tree in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God."  
 GENESIS 21:33

14 MANDRAKE *Mandragora officinalis*  
 Hebrew: DUDAIM  
 Use: medicine  
 "And when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister; . . . and Reuben went in the days of the wheat harvest and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah: 'Give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes, . . . And God remembered Rachel, . . . And she conceived, and bore a son.'  
 GENESIS 30:1, 14, 22, 23

15 OREGANO ("hyssop") *Origanum maru*  
 Hebrew: EZOB  
 Use: seasoning  
 "And he (Solomon) spoke of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the byssop that springeth out of the wall; he spoke also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes."  
 I KINGS 5:13

16 JUDEAN SAGE *Salvia judaica*  
 Hebrew: BESAMINIM  
 Use: model for the seven-branched candelabra or "menorah"  
 "He made the candlestick of pure gold; of beaten work made be the candlestick; even its base, and its shaft; its cups, its knops, its flowers, were of one piece with it. And there were six branches going out of the sides thereof; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side thereof, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side thereof."  
 EXODUS 37:17-18

17 STRAWBERRY TREE

(One of many "trees bearing fruit")

Hebrew: AYTZ

Use: ornamental

"And the earth brought forth grass, herb yielding seed after its kind, and tree bearing fruit, wherein is the seed thereof, after its kind; and God saw that it was good."

GENESIS 1:12

*Arbutus unedo*

*A. u.* 'Compacta'

*A. u.* 'Elfin King'



*Arbutus unedo* 'Elfin King'

18 THYME ("spices")

Hebrew: BASAM

Use: seasoning

"How fair is thy love, my sister, my bride! How much better is thy love than wine! And the smell of thine ointments than all manner of spices!"

SONG OF SONGS 4:10

*Thymus vulgaris*

19 (DWARF) POMEGRANATE

*Punica granatum* 'Nana'

Hebrew: RIMON

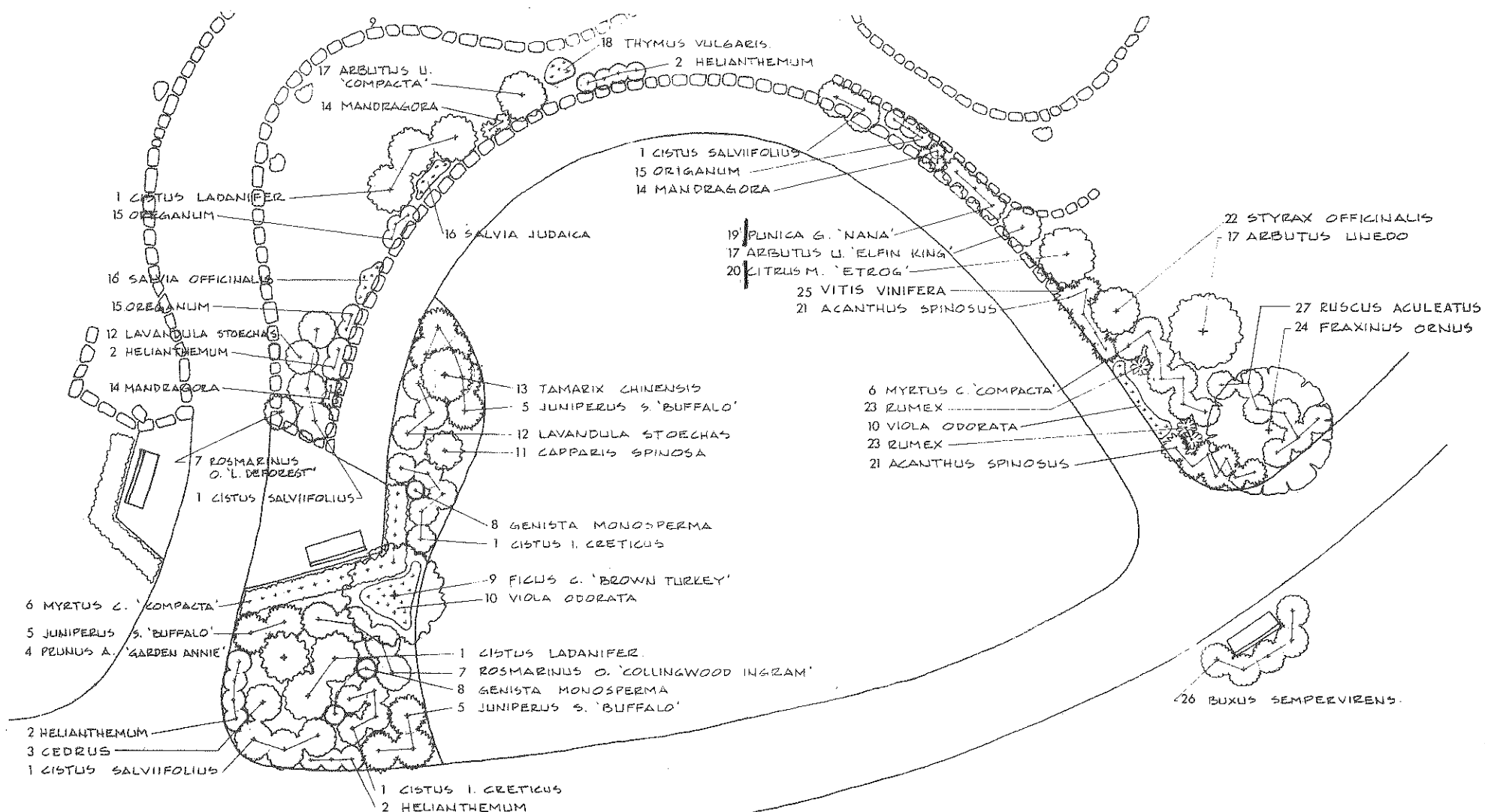
Use: food, drink

"I would lead thee, and bring thee into my mother's house, That thou mightest instruct me; I would cause thee to drink of spiced wine, Of the juice of my pomegranate."

SONG OF SONGS 8:2



*Punica granatum* 'Nana'



# The Biblical Garden

STRYBING ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDENS

GOLDEN GATE PARK



SAN FRANCISCO

20 CITRON

Hebrew: HADAR

Use: food, furniture, religious ceremony

"And ye shall take you on the first day (fifteenth day of the seventh month — the feast of Tabernacles — for seven days — Sukkot) the fruit of goodly trees, branches of palm-trees, and boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook, and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days."

LEVITICUS 23:40

24 FLOWERING ASH ("manna")

*Fraxinus ornus*

Hebrew: MANNA

Use: medicine

"... and ye humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knowest not, neither did thy fathers know..."

DEUTERONOMY 8:3

21

BEAR'S BREECH ("nettles") *Acanthus spinosissimus*

Hebrew: HARUL

Use: troublesome weed

"I went by the field of the slothful, And by the vineyard of the man void of understanding: And, lo, it was all grown over with thistles, the face thereof was covered with nettles and the stonewall thereof was broken down."

PROVERBS 24:30,31

25

GRAPE *Vitis vinifera*

Hebrew: GEFEN

Use: food, drink

"And they came unto the valley of Eschol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bore it upon a pole between two."

NUMBERS 13:23

22

STYRAX ("stacte") \**Styrax officinalis* var. *californicus*

Hebrew: LEVONA

Use: perfume, spice

"And the Lord said unto Moses; Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense; of each shall there be a like weight: And thou shalt make of it incense, a perfume after the art of the perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure and holy."

EXODUS 30:34-35

\* a substitute for *Styrax officinalis*

26

ENGLISH BOXWOOD *Buxus sempervirens*

Hebrew: T'ASHUR

Use: construction

"The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the cypress, the plane-tree, and Larch (box tree) together; to beautify the place of My sanctuary."

ISAIAH 60:13

23

SORREL ("bitter herbs") *Rumex acetosella*

Hebrew: MAROR

Use: food

"And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it."

EXODUS 12:8

27

BUTCHER'S BROOM *Ruscus aculeatus*

Hebrew: SILLON

Use: troublesome nettles

"And there shall be no more a pricking brier unto the house of Israel, nor a piercing thorn of any that are round about them, that did have them in disdain; and they shall know that I am the Lord God."

EZEKIEL 28:24

Annuals and bulbous plants have been included in the Biblical Garden as representatives of the vast array of wildflowers that colored the fields, valleys and mountainsides of the Biblical lands. They will not all be visible on any one visit to the Garden. Spring and early summer are the best times to see the widest range of these flowers.

**DILL ("spices")** *Anethum graveolens*

Hebrew: BESEM or BOSEM

Use: seasoning

"And she gave the King a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store and precious stones. There came no more such abundance of spices as these which the Queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon."

I KINGS 10:10

**FITCHES**

Hebrew: KETZAH

Use: seasoning

"When he hath made plain the face thereof, doth he not cast abroad the black cummin (fitches), and so scatter the cummin, . . . but the black cummin is beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod."

ISAIAH 28:25, 27

**GARLIC**

Hebrew: SHOOMIM

Use: seasoning

"We remember the fish, which we were wont to eat in Egypt for nought, the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic."

NUMBERS 11:5

**ANEMONE ("lilies")**

Hebrew: SHOSHANIM

Use: ornamental

"Thy two breasts are like two fawns that are twins of a gazelle, which feed among the lilies."

SONG OF SONGS 4:5

**AUTUMN CROCUS**

*Colchicum autumnale*

Hebrew: SCHUSCHAN or SCHOSCHANNA

Use: decoration, ornamental

"The wilderness and the parched land shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."

ISAIAH 35:1

**CROCUS ("saffron")**

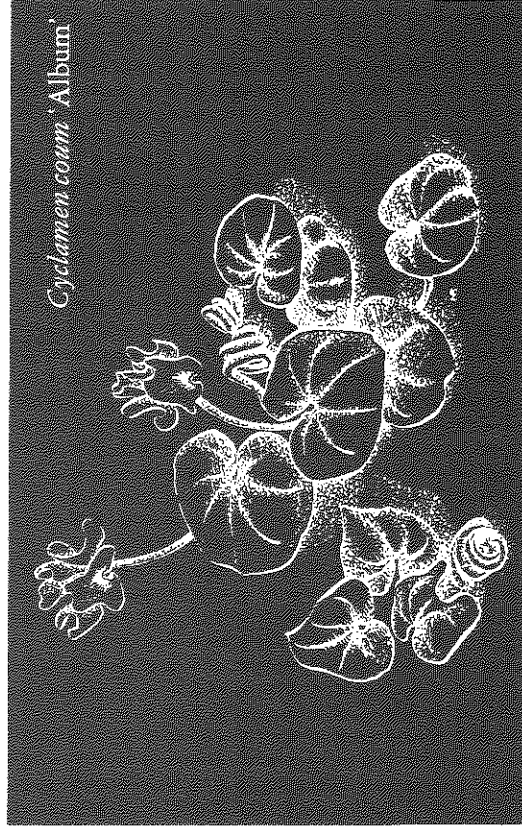
*Crocus sativus*

Hebrew: KARKOM

Use: seasoning, dye

"A garden shut up is my sister, my bride; A spring shut up, a fountain sealed. Thy shoots are a park of pomegranates, With precious fruits; Henna with spikenard plants, Spikenard and saffron."

SONG OF SONGS 4:12-14



**CYCLAMEN ("lilies")**

*Cyclamen coum*

*C. orbiculatum*

*C. persicum*

Hebrew: SHOSHANIM

Use: ornamental

"My beloved is gone down to his garden, To the beds of spices, To feed in the gardens, And to gather lilies."

SONG OF SONGS 6:2



**HYACINTH**

Hebrew: SHOSHANAH

Use: decoration

"My beloved is gone down to his garden, To the beds of spices, To feed in the gardens, And to gather lilies."

SONG OF SONGS 6:2

*Hyacinthus orientalis***STAR OF BETHLEHEM**

("dove's dung")

Hebrew: HIRYONIM

Use: cooking, ornamental

"And is came to pass after this, that Ben-hadad King of Aram gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria. And there was a great famine in Samaria, and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a kab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver."

II KINGS 6:24-25

**IRIS ('lily')**

Hebrew: SHOSHAN

Use: ornamental

"I will be as the dew unto Israel: He shall blossom as the Lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon."

HOSEA 14:6

\* a substitute for *Iris bistrioides*\**Iris bistrioides* 'Major'**GLADIOLUS**

Hebrew: SHUSHAN

Use: ornamental

"I will be as the dew unto Israel: . . . he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon."

HOSEA 14:6

*Gladiolus segetum***LILY**

Hebrew: SHOSHAN

Use: ornamental

"His cheeks are as a bed of spices, As banks of sweet herbs; His lips are as lilies, dropping with flowing myrrh."

SONG OF SONGS 5:13

\* a red-flowered hybrid may be substituted

\**Lilium chalcedonicum***NARCISSUS ('rose')**

Hebrew: HAVATSELET

Use: ornamental

"The wilderness and the parched land shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."

ISAIAH 35:1

\* a named cultivar may be substituted

**TULIP ('Rose of Sharon')**

Hebrew: HABAT SELETH

Use: ornamental

"I am a Rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. As a lily among thorns. So is my love among the daughters."

SONG OF SONGS 2:1-2

\* a red-flowered hybrid may be substituted

**STERNBERGIA**

Hebrew: SHOSHANAH

Use: ornamental

"For as the earth bringeth forth her growth, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause victory and glory to spring forth before all the nations."

ISAIAH 61:11

*Sternbergia clausiana**S. lutea***RANUNCULUS ('lilies')**

Hebrew: SHOSHAN

Use: medicine

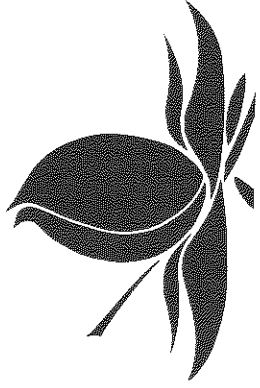
"My beloved is mine, and I am his, that feedeth among the lilies."

SONG OF SONGS 2:16

*Ranunculus asiaticus*

Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and the Arboretum Society wish to thank the Sisterhood Guild of Congregation Emanu-El for its generous funding toward the development of the Biblical Garden, and the publication of this booklet. Contributions to the Sisterhood Guild Bible Walk Fund provide for on-going maintenance of the garden. A scholarship has been established from the proceeds received from the Guild's Holland Bulb Sale. The scholarship is given to Strybing Arboretum Society to assist its teaching program and help in the maintenance of public land including the Biblical Garden.

Major funding for this project was provided by Richard N. and Rhoda H. Goldman in memory of Walter A. Haas, Sr.



#### ABOUT STRYBING . . .

Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, a "living museum of plants", is open to the public every day of the week from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, and from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekends. Located at 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park, its main purpose is to educate the public about the beauty and importance of the plant world. In this 70-acre location more than 6,000 different kinds of plants can be found.

Docent-led tours leave from the Strybing Store just inside the main gate every day at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. Guided tours for special groups and school classes may be arranged by calling (415) 661-0822.

The Strybing Arboretum Society is a non-profit, volunteer organization founded to support the development of the Arboretum and to manage the education programs. Membership information may be obtained by calling (415) 661-1316.

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Text: The Bible Walk Committee  
Sisterhood Guild  
Congregation Emanu-El

Garden Design: Richard G. Turner, Jr.  
Illustrations: Nancy Baron

*"Go forth unto the Mount, and fetch olive branches, and branches of wild olive and myrtle branches, and palm branches, and branches of thick trees, to make booths, as it is written."*

NEHEMIAH 8:15