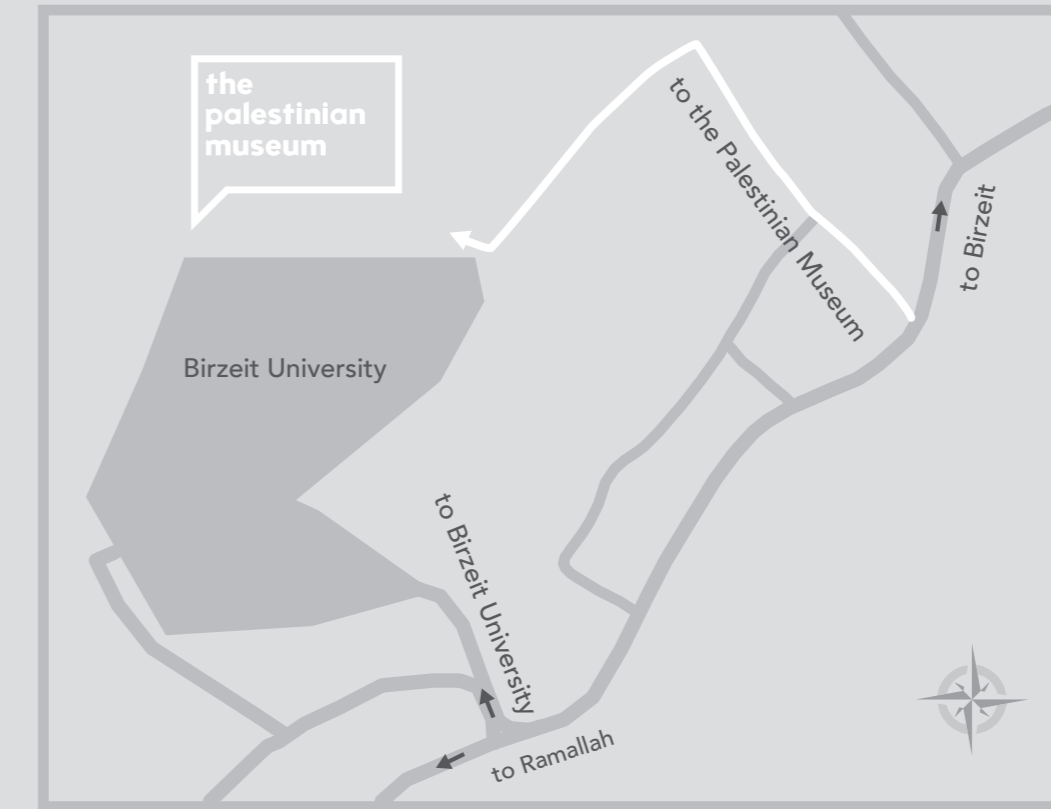
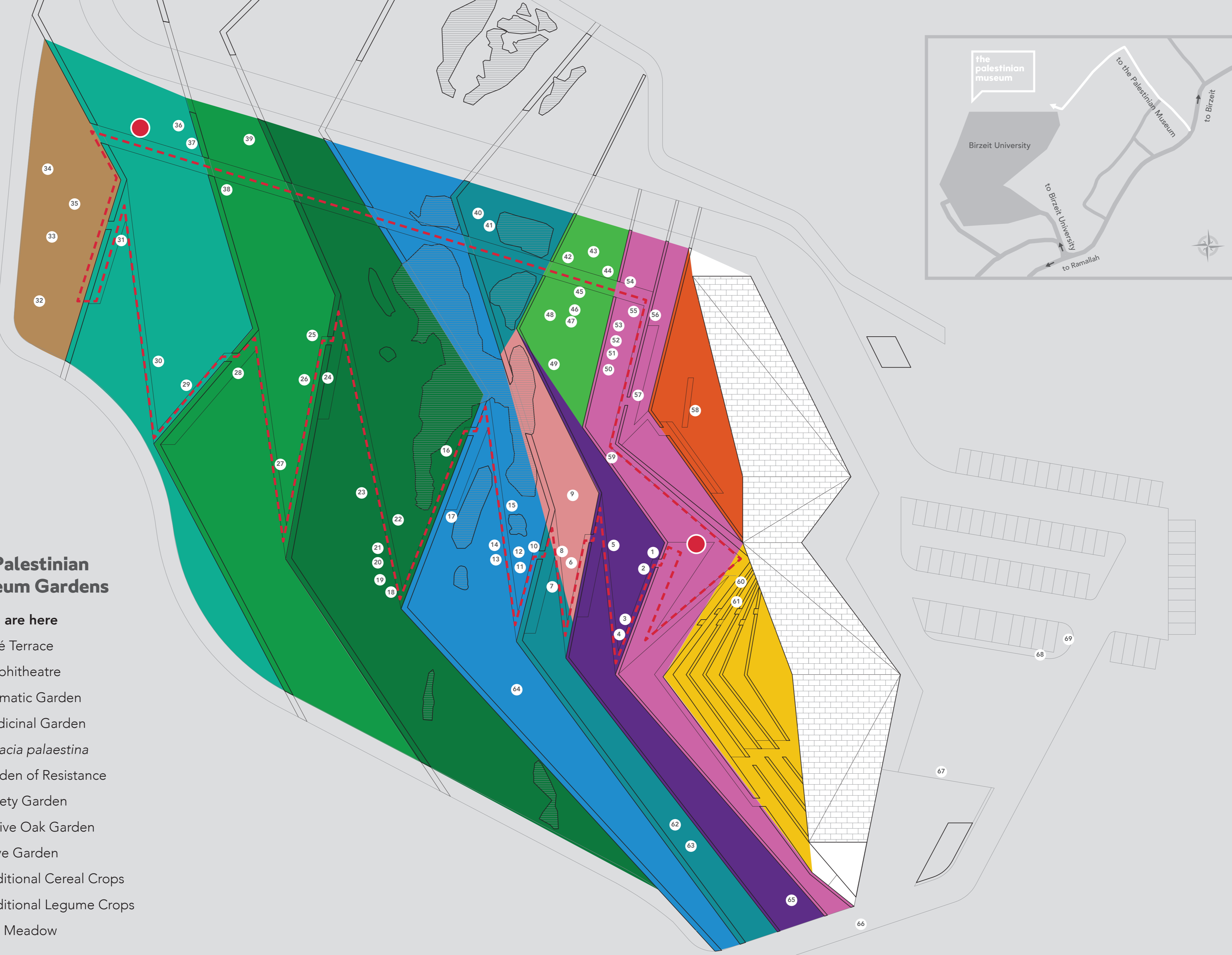


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|---|--|
| 1 Pear
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| 2 Carob
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| 31 Spearmint
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| 35 Mixed Plot | |

The Palestinian Museum Gardens

- You are here
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- Amphitheatre
- Aromatic Garden
- Medicinal Garden
- *Pistacia palaestina*
- Garden of Resistance
- Variety Garden
- Native Oak Garden
- Olive Garden
- Traditional Cereal Crops
- Traditional Legume Crops
- The Meadow



The Palestinian Museum Gardens

The Palestinian Museum is an independent institution dedicated to supporting an open and dynamic Palestinian culture nationally and internationally. The Museum presents and engages with new perspectives on Palestinian history, society and culture. It also offers spaces for creative ventures, educational programmes and innovative research. The Museum is a flagship project of Taawon-Welfare Association and one of the most exciting new cultural projects in Palestine.

The Palestinian Museum Gardens
Palestine has both rich indigenous and imported flora. The Palestinian landscape has been shaped by its plants and the horticultural traditions that surround them. The story of these influences is represented in the Palestinian Museum's gardens, where the gardens' narrative is shaped by the contrasting themes of the *natural landscape* and the *cultural landscape*. This dynamic is ever-present as one walks through the gardens up to the building itself, moving from nature to culture. The gardens, designed by the Jordanian landscape architect Lara Zureikat, narrate the horticultural history of Palestine. Surrounded with wild fruit trees, visitors can see aromatic and medicinal plants, as well as traditional legume and cereal crops. Because of the seasonal nature of many plants, some will be in bloom while others are out of season.

The Museum was recently presented with the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture (2019).

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the palestinian museum



1 Pear
Pyrus syriaca
There are numerous genotypes and varieties of this fruit tree, including wild types. Pears are usually grafted either on vigorous pear seedlings tolerant of calcareous soils, or on dwarf quinces. Pears are an excellent source of fibre and antioxidants. Regular consumption is believed to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and infections.



2 Carob
Ceratonia siliqua L.
The Carob tree is an evergreen tree with a thick stem and grey-brown bark, widely found in the northern regions of Palestine. The products of this tree are believed to have medicinal benefits. The pods are edible to both humans and animals. Molasses, drinks and a jelly-like pudding are prepared from the pods.



3 Almond
Prunus amygdalus Batsch
The Almond is a deciduous stone fruit tree, considered one of the most important in Palestine. The *Um al-Fahem* variety is well adapted to Palestinian conditions and widely cultivated. The trees bloom during the winter season. Almonds contain many health-promoting natural compounds. Regular consumption boosts the immune system, reduces blood pressure and the incidence of cardiovascular diseases, and has anti-aging benefits.



4 White Rockrose
Cistus salvifolius L.
White Rockrose is a short evergreen multi-branched aromatic shrub. It is mainly found in the mountains of Galilee, Carmel, Nablus, Jerusalem, Hebron, in the northern Jordan Valley and the Naqab desert. It is used for decoration and to make perfumes. In traditional medicine, it is used as an anti-inflammatory agent, to treat digestive and respiratory system disorders, and to relieve menstrual pains.



5 Terebinth
Pistacia palestina Boiss
The Terebinth is a deciduous tree shrub that lives for hundreds of years, common in the central and northern regions of the Palestinian mountains. Its egg-shaped leaves distinguish it from other *Pistacia* species. Terebinth is used as a rootstock for pistachios. The fruit is used to prepare the Palestinian *dugga*, and to treat stomach and tooth aches. Caution is advised if consuming the fruit during pregnancy.



6 Mediterranean Saltbush
Atriplex halimus L.
The Mediterranean saltbush is an evergreen shrub preferred by grazing animals in the desert. The plant can withstand harsh conditions like drought, salinity, and alkaline soil; hence, it is distributed in regions of Palestine with high salinity. Medicinally, saltbush products are believed to regulate blood sugar levels, lower cholesterol levels, and treat kidney infections. They were historically used as a diuretic agent.



7 Blue Plumbago
Plumbago auriculata Lam.
Blue plumbago is an evergreen shrub that is mostly grown in home gardens as a climber; it is not yet well known in Palestine. Its flowers are blue or white, depending on the grown variety, and the leaves are glossy. These plants like sunny or lightly shaded spots. Their roots are believed to be effective in relieving toothache and in treating wounds.



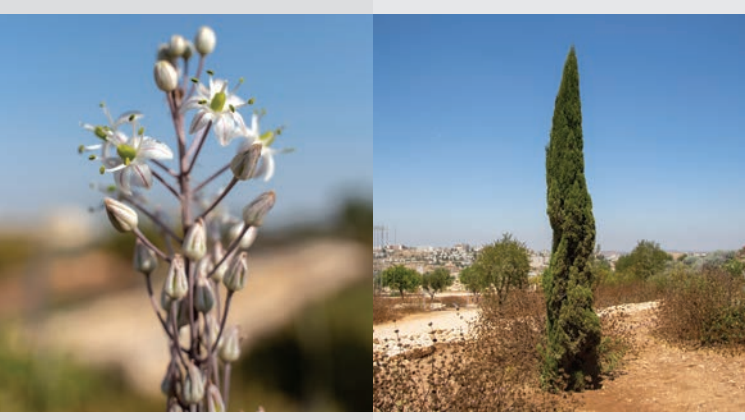
8 Thorny Burnet
Sarcopoterium spinosum L.
Thorny burnet is an indigenous perennial plant, commonly known as *natish* in central Palestine and as *billan* in the northern regions. It is multi-branched with numerous thorns. Its flowering period begins in February, and its leaves dry in the summer. Thorny burnet has traditionally been used for numerous purposes, including as a fuel source and in fencing.



16 Rose-Scented Geranium
Pelargonium graveolens L'Her.
Rose-scented geranium, indigenous to South Africa, is a branched upright shrub with aromatic (in some varieties) soft leaves. The leaves and flowers are used as flavouring agents in desserts, jams, salads, and tea. It is also used in making perfumes, in aromatherapy and massages. Geraniums, in their different varieties, are widely planted in Palestinian gardens.



17 Grape
Vitis vinifera L.
Archaeological evidence suggests that the grape vine is a very ancient plant in Palestine. Numerous varieties are cultivated without supplementary irrigation, mainly around Hebron. Its main products are raisins, malban (dried paste), and *dibs* (molasses). Palestinians mention chamomile in a few proverbs, such as 'Take from the spring of your land, even if it is a daisy' - in other words, 'It is better to marry from your homeland!'



22 Sea Squill
Urginea maritima L. Baker
Sea Squill is a perennial bulb-forming plant whose white flowers are known to be the whitest of all plants. The leaves dry up and fall before flowering, so its leaves and flowers never overlap. It is found in several Palestinian landscapes, especially in mountainous regions. It is believed to be effective in preventing cardiovascular diseases.



24 Marjoram
Origanum majorana L.
Marjoram has different names in Palestine, including *mardaqaush* alkabereh and *bardaqoush*. This aromatic perennial herb is relatively sensitive to cold. The leaves are smooth, of ovate to oblong-ovate shape. It is used in traditional dishes and tea, and it is believed to be effective in treating coughs, reducing blood pressure, boosting the immune system, and treating bacterial infections.



25 Wheat
Triticum aestivum L.
First grown nine thousand years ago in the Fertile Crescent, this annual plant is considered one of the three most important plants for humans (with corn and rice). Wheats are grouped into two major groups - winter and spring wheats, the latter being cultivated in Palestine. Palestinian Arabic has many proverbs about wheat, including: 'Wheat and (olive) oil are two lions in the house'.



26 Common Sage
Salvia triloba L.
In Arabic, sage (*maramiah*) is thought to be named after Mary Mother of Jesus, but its name might also reflect its bitter taste (*mur* means 'bitter'). A perennial shrub with woody stems, it is also called *azakan* in the northern regions of Palestine. One of the oldest medicinal herbs, sage is used to treat joint pain, rheumatism, stress, headache, fatigue, fever, and diarrhoea. Excessive use is not recommended.



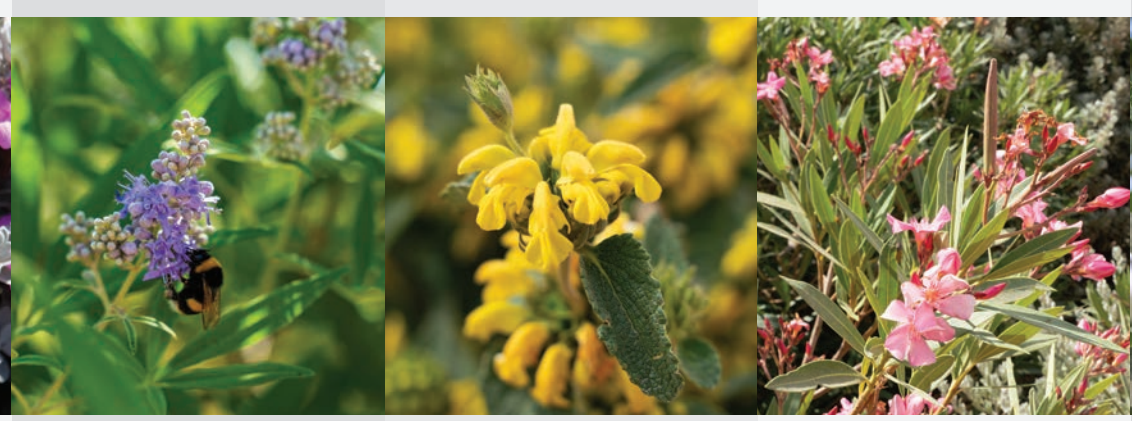
27 Pomegranate
Punica granatum L.
This deciduous tree, a symbol of fertility in many cultures, has been cultivated since ancient times. The flowers are bright red, and the fruit has a leathery shrub with woody stems. It is also called *azakan* in the northern regions of Palestine. Pomegranate is considered an extremely healthy fruit because of its powerful antioxidants and other phytochemicals. It is effective in reducing the risk of cancer and cardiovascular diseases, and acts as an anti-aging agent.



28 Oregano
Origanum vulgare L.
A perennial aromatic herb plant with relatively small leaves and long extended roots that render it highly tolerant of drought. Its flowering season is March-September. Oregano is a well known medicinal herb that is rich in health-promoting compounds, especially antioxidants. Its oil is believed to boost the immune system, and prevent digestive system disorders and muscle aches.



29 Lemon Verbena
Aloysia citrodora Paláu
Lemon verbena is a perennial shrub with rough aromatic leaves, grown widely in home gardens as an aromatic and medicinal plant. Its extract is believed to protect muscles, lymphatic cells, and red blood cells from oxidation stress. It is recommended against depression and for boosting memory. Excessive consumption is not advised, especially during pregnancy.



30 Chickpea
Cicer arietinum L.
Chickpea is an annual plant, and is widely cultivated in Palestine. Among its many groups, *desi* and *kabuli* are the major ones. Many studies have shown that chickpea consumption can lower the bad cholesterol (LDL) levels in the blood, reducing the risk of cardiovascular diseases. Chickpea is considered the oldest cultivated legume; remains dated back seven thousand years have been found in Palestine.



31 Spearmint
Mentha spicata L.
Spearmint is an aromatic herbaceous perennial plant that spreads quickly through its rhizomes. In Palestine, other wild mint species, mainly *Mentha longifolia*, can be found near bodies of water. Spearmint is a well known medicinal plant, with a wide spectrum of benefits. Mint extracts are widely used in cosmetics and body care products.



32 Black Mulberry
Morus nigra L.
Both black and white mulberry trees grow in Palestine, but white mulberry is more common. Both species bear unisexual flowers, but trees may be either monoecious or dioecious. Mulberries, in particular the white species, were historically used for silk production and for making wooden pots. Mulberry has a distinctive place in Palestinian heritage.



33 Apricot
Prunus armeniaca L.
The Apricot is a deciduous stone fruit tree that is usually grafted on vigorous rootstocks to withstand drought conditions. Apricot cultivation in Palestine is not ancient and is currently restricted mainly to the Nablus area. Its fruit ripens early in the season. Apricots are healthy and effective in preventing cardiovascular diseases and cancer.



34 Walnut
Juglans regia L.
The walnut is a perennial tree that grows in temperate regions with moderate rainfall (500 mm or more), and lives for hundreds of years. It is considered very nutritious due to its high levels of unsaturated fatty acids, and is believed to be good for memory, blood circulation enhancement, and to treat dyspepsia. It is widely used in Palestinian desserts.



35 Mixed Plot
An attractive collection of fruit trees, including almond, apricot, walnut, mulberry and oak, in addition to annual and wild plants, including fennel, anemone, mallow, milk thistle and rock-roses. This plot reflects the beauty and diversity of the Palestinian landscapes, and the overlapping of flowering periods.



36 Texas Sage
Leucophyllum frutescens (Berland.) L.M. Johnston
Texas sage is an evergreen shrub with grey-greenish leaves and violet flowers. The plant blooms from spring to autumn, and its flowers are highly attractive to insects. Texas sage is drought-tolerant and was introduced to Palestine as an ornamental plant. Its products are used against the common cold and influenza.



37 Chaste Tree
Vitex agnus-castus L.
Chaste tree, also called *Yarnahan*, is actually a shrub which may grow up to two metres high, with light brown stems and palm-shaped leaves. It blooms from June to September, producing aromatic purple flowers on small pedicels. The fruit is dark-red. It is used against gut and eye disorders, as well as against hormonal imbalances and rheumatism.



38 Sticky Jerusalem Sage
Phlomis viscosa Poir.
Sticky Jerusalem sage is also known as 'donkey's cage' and 'old man's tooth'. It is an evergreen shrub with beautiful yellow flowers. The plant is widely found across Palestine. Another variety, Jerusalem sage (*el-sayeen* in Arabic), is also common, and its leaves are edible.



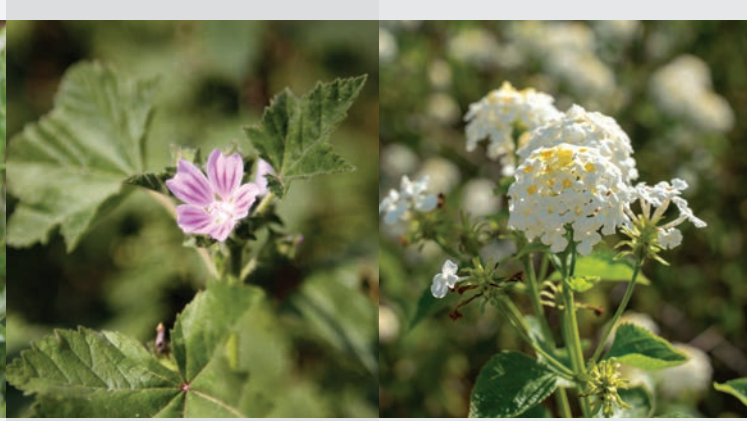
39 Oleander
Nerium oleander L.
Oleanders are evergreen poisonous shrubs that can reach the height of trees. The dark-green leaves, which grow in pairs or whorls of three, are narrow, lanceolate and thick. Flower colour varies among varieties. Oleander is highly tolerant of various abiotic stresses, including drought, and is thus widely distributed in Palestine. It is believed to be effective in treating heart problems and to have an antimicrobial effect.



40 Fig
Ficus carica L.
This deciduous tree is widely cultivated in most Palestinian regions, particularly around Nablus and Ramallah. Its many varieties include *ea'naqi*, *esuwadi*, *ehmarai*, and *amwazi*. Figs are nutritious due to high levels of vitamins, minerals, fibre, and antioxidants. A Palestinian proverb notes that 'In the fig season, there is no need to make bread.'



41 Lily of the Nile
Agapanthus praecox Willd.
Lily of the Nile is a perennial plant that prefers well-drained soils. The plant is indigenous to South Africa, and has no specific place in Palestinian heritage. However, it is highly appreciated for its beautiful flowers, and is grown in home gardens. It can also be grown in pots. No uses are reported in traditional medicine.



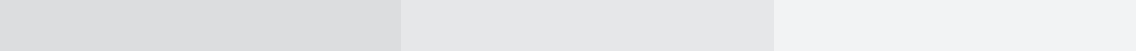
42 Common Myrtle
Myrtus communis L.
Common myrtle, a symbol of love and peace in many civilizations, is an evergreen shrub with aromatic leaves and flowers. In Palestine, it is used mostly as an ornamental plant and is called *himolas* and *hab al-ajis*. The oil is used to make perfumes and cosmetics, and its products are used to treat urinary tract infections and digestive disorders.



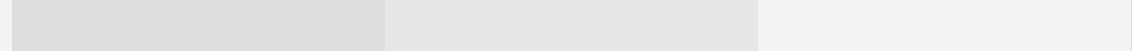
43 Quince
Cydonia oblonga Mill.
The quince is a deciduous tree that produces white-purple flowers. The quince was well known to the Akkadians, who called it *supurgilu* (hence the Arabic word *al-safarji*). Quince is traditionally used as a dwarf rootstock for pear trees. Its hard and astringent fruit is believed to be healthy due to its richness in vitamins and antioxidants. In Palestine, quince is used to make jams.



44 Butcher's Broom
Ruscus aculeatus L.
Butcher's broom is an evergreen shrub whose twigs are transformed into cladodes (leaf-like structures), while its actual leaves are reduced to scale-like structures. The plant is found mainly in the Upper Galilee, the Carmel mountain, and in the fertile plain of Marj Ibn Amer. The rhizome's extract is effective in lowering cholesterol and breaking up kidney stones. The tips of its young twigs are edible.



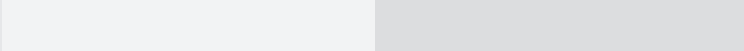
45 Spanish Broom
Spartium junceum L.
Spanish broom is a vigorous deciduous shrub with sparse small leaves. Photosynthesis is done largely by the green shoots to reduce water evaporation in dry regions. The plant gained recognition of the Royal Horticultural Society as an outdoor ornamental plant. In Palestine, brooms and baskets were made from it. The plant is considered a cardio-augmentor, a laxative and a diuretic agent.



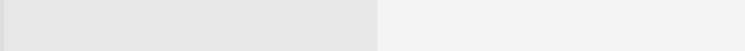
46 Wormwood
Artemisia herba-alba Asso
Wormwood is a grey-coloured perennial shrub with small aromatic leaves covered with small hairs. Its Arabic names *thaken sid* (grandpa's beard) and *thaken al-shaikh* (old man's beard) reflect its grey colour. Mainly found in the Palestinian and Jordanian deserts, it is used as an antimicrobial and antiseptic agent, to prevent muscle cramps, digestive tract disorders, and as an insect repellent.



47 Garlic
Allium sativum L.
Garlic is a bulbous plant that was used in war to protect from gangrene. It was known by the ancient Egyptians, and Palestinians used it to ward off evil spirits. Currently, it is widely cultivated as a winter-season crop. Garlic is proven to be effective in reducing cholesterol levels and the risk of stomach cancer.



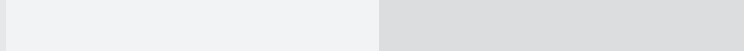
48 Common Capers
Capparis spinosa L.
Common caper is a deciduous multi-branched shrub that can reach a height of one metre. The plant roots comprise most of its weight. The pickled flower buds can be used to flavour food, but capers are also used as an analgesic, laxative, vasoconstrictor and a diuretic drug, as well as to treat digestive system inflammations, diarrhoea, rheumatism, and skin bruises.



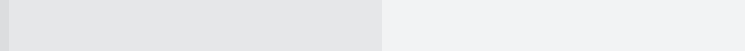
49 Storax
Styrax officinalis L.
Storax can be found across Palestine where it has many names, including *al-lubna* and *shebreeh*. The plant is a medium-sized deciduous tree with intensely fragrant flowers pollinated by honeybees. The seeds, often used to make rosaries, are toxic, and the fleshy part of the fruit is extremely bitter. Its white resin was used as incense. The plant is considered a source of *luban*, used in traditional medicine.



50 Egyptian Campion
Silene aegyptiaca (L.) L. f.
This annual plant can be found in the Palestinian mountains. It has many names, including *an-al-bent* (girl's eye). Another *Silene* species, namely *Silene palestina*, is called *hakeak*. Colours of the campion flowers brighten the mountains and orchards during spring. Traditionally, campion can also be used to relieve fever.



51 Spurge
Euphorbia hirsoryllomitana Boiss
Spurge has many common Arabic names, including *hallaba* and *holayba*. The name *holayba* is attributed to its white milky sap. This shrub is short, deciduous and highly branched with yellowish-green flowers. It is widely distributed in the Palestinian mountains. Its extract is considered a cathartic and laxative; the plant is avoided by livestock during grazing.



67 Laurel
Laurus nobilis L.
Laurel is an indigenous evergreen aromatic tree with shiny green leaves. The leaves are widely used as a spice, and the oil is used in traditional medicine, as it contains high levels of health-promoting natural compounds.

68 Judas Tree
Cercis siliqustrum L.
Judas tree is called *shobroq* or *khazreeq* in Palestine. This deciduous tree bears edible pink or crimson flowers, which appear before the leaves. Widely found in the northern region of Palestine, it is considered one of the most beautiful ornamental trees. The flowers are used as decorations by Christians in the Galilee for Palm Sunday.

69 Japanese Pittosporum
Pittosporum tobira (Thunb.) W.T.Aiton
Pittosporum is a hardy evergreen shrub that bears aromatic white flowers. Since pittosporum is drought-tolerant, it is widely used in Palestine as an ornamental plant, mostly to create beautiful hedges. It can also be used as an indoor multi-branched plant.