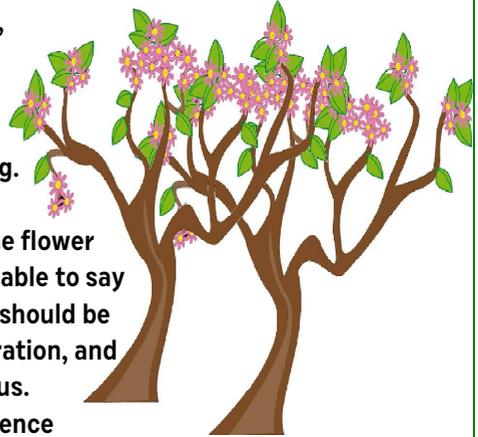




The following bracha is said only once a year, during the month of Nissan, on fruit trees in blossom. It is not said on flowering trees that do not bear fruit. Say the bracha ONLY if you are sure that the trees are fruit-bearing.

It is not said on fruit trees that already have fruit; only on fruit trees when they display the flower blossoms that precede their fruit. It is preferable to say the bracha on at least two trees. The bracha should be said with a sense of awe, appreciation, admiration, and joy of HaShem and the world He created for us.

We specifically acknowledge Him in the presence of fruit trees which delight our senses with their floral displays, even before they provide us with their tasty fruit. We realize that this is an extra-special gift from G-d to us.



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
שֶׁלֹא חֶסֶר בְּעוֹלָמוֹ דָּבָר, וּבָרָא בּוֹ בְרִיּוֹת  
טוֹבוֹת וְאֵילָנוֹת טוֹבִים לְהַנּוֹת בָּהֶם בְּנֵי אָדָם:

Some versions have בָּלוּם instead of דָּבָר

### Some add these T'hilim (122 and 128)

שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת לְדָוִד, שֶׁמִּחֲתִי בְּאִמְרִים לִי, בֵּית ה' גִּלְגָּל. עַמְדוֹת הָיוּ רִגְלֵינוּ, בְּשַׁעֲרֵיךָ יְרוּשָׁלַיִם. יְרוּשָׁלַיִם הַבְּנוּיָה, כְּעִיר שֶׁחִבְרָה לָהּ יַחְדָּו. שֵׁשׁ עָלוּ שְׁבָטִים שְׁבִטֵי יְהוָה עֲדוֹת לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, לְהַדוֹת לְשֵׁם ה'. כִּי שָׁמָּה יָשְׁבוּ כְּסֹאוֹת לְמִשְׁפָּט, כְּסֹאוֹת לְבֵית דָּוִד. שֶׁאֵלּוֹ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַיִם, יִשְׁלָיו אַהֲבִיךָ. יְהִי שְׁלוֹם בְּחִילֶךָ, שְׁלוֹהַּ בְּאַרְמְנוֹתֶיךָ. לְמַעַן אַחֲי וְרַעֲי, אֲדַבְּרָה נָא שְׁלוֹם בְּךָ. לְמַעַן בֵּית ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ, אֲבַקֶּשׁה טוֹב לָךְ.

שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת, אֲשֶׁרֵי כָל יָרָא ה', הַהֲלֵךְ בְּדַרְכָיו. יִגִּיעַ כְּפִיךָ כִּי תֹאכַל, אֲשֶׁרֵיךָ וְטוֹב לָךְ. אֲשֶׁרֵיךָ כִּנְגֶנּוּ פְרִיָה בִּירְכַחְתִּי בֵּיתְךָ, בְּנִיךָ כְּשֶׁתִּלִּי זִיתִים, סָבִיב לְשִׁלְחֶנְךָ. הִנֵּה כִּי כֹן יִבְרַךְ גְּבַר, יָרָא ה'. יִבְרַכְךָ ה' מִצִּיּוֹן, וְרָאָה בְּטוֹב יְרוּשָׁלַיִם, כֹּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ. וְרָאָה בְּנִים לְבְנֶיךָ, שְׁלוֹם עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל.

We already know that trees are special - we had TU BISHVAT, the Rosh HaShana for Trees. Think of it this way: Trees provide us with nourishing and delicious fruit. DAYENU! That would be enough to thank HaShem for. And we do, every time we eat a fruit and say BOREI P'RI HA'EITZ. And when the fruit is the first of the season, we are so excited that we say an additional bracha: SHEHECHEYANU. Many fruits also have a pleasant fragrance. That's a bonus. An extra gift from G-d for our enjoyment. And we have a bracha for that too: HANOTEIN REI'ACH TOV BAPEIROT. There is also a b'bracha for seeing a magnificent forest: SHEKACHA LO B'OLAMO. And that HaShem provided us with a beautiful fragrant display of flowers BEFORE the tree yields its fruit - this is an extra bonus, which we acknowledge once a year with Birkat Ha-Ilanot.

**ILAN, ILAN from Taanit 5b-6a:** ...To what may this be compared? To a man who was journeying in the desert; he was hungry, weary and thirsty and he lighted upon a tree the fruits of which were sweet, its shade pleasant, and a stream of water flowing beneath it; he ate of its fruits, drank of the water, and rested under its shade.

When he was about to continue his journey, he said: Tree, O Tree, with what shall I bless you? Shall I say to you, 'May your fruits be sweet'? They are sweet already; that your shade be pleasant? It is already pleasant; that a stream of water may flow beneath you? Lo, a stream of water flows already beneath you; therefore [I say], 'May it be [God's] will that all the shoots taken from you be like you.'

So also with you. With what shall I bless you? With [the knowledge of the Torah?] You already possess [knowledge of the Torah]. With riches? You have riches already. With children? You have children already. Hence [I say], 'May it be [God's] will that your offspring be like you.'

## Trees by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see  
A poem as lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;  
A tree that looks to God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

