

Aleppo Pine, Znuber
(*Pinus halepensis*)

Max. Height: 15 m
 Bloom: Mar - Apr
 Flower: Yellow (male), purplish red (female)
 Natural Habitat: Woodland
 Cultivation: Full sun; light well drained sandy or gravelly loam, poor chalky, poor dry sandy, loamy or moist soil; drought tolerant, fairly wind resistant



Used For: Planting: Afforestation, garden, parks
 Food: Flavouring, condiment, gum
 Medicine: Kidney, bladder and respiratory complaints, rheumatic affections, skin wounds, sores, burns, boils
 Others: Wood, solvent for waxes, varnish



Lm

Bay Laurel, Sigra tar-Rand
(*Laurus nobilis*)

Max. Height: 12 m
 Bloom: Feb - Apr
 Flower: Yellow
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, valleys, thickets
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; moist well drained fertile soil



Used For: Planting: Hedge plant (easy to trim), decorative purpose
 Food: Aromatic food flavouring, herbal tea
 Medicine: Antiseptic, narcotic, bronchitis, influenza



Lm

Carob, Harrub
(*Ceratonia siliqua*)

Max. Height: 10 m
 Bloom: Sept - Nov
 Flower: Inconspicuous
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, woodland, valleys
 Cultivation: Full sun; well drained moderately fertile soil, calcareous, gravelly or rocky soil; drought tolerant, tolerates salt laden air



Used For: Food: Sweet syrup, flour, chocolate substitute
 Medicine: Very nutritious, mildly laxative, coughs, diarrhoea
 Others: Wood, animal fodder, cosmetics, pharmaceutical products, detergents, paint, shoe polish, adhesives, insecticides



Lm

Wolfbane, Sigra tal-Harir
(*Periploca angustifolia*)

Max. Height: 1.5 m
 Bloom: Nov - Apr
 Flower: Red wine, green
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, garrigue, coastline and cliffs



Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; well drained soil
 Used For: Medicine: Fever
 Danger: Likely to be poisonous!



Lm

Yellow Horned Poppy, Peprin Isfar
(*Glaucium flavum*)

Max. Height: 0.6 m
 Bloom: Jun - Sept
 Flower: Eye catching yellow
 Natural Habitat: Sandy and salty places, dunes, shingle banks by the coast



Cultivation: Full sun, hot dry position; well drained poor soil; salt tolerant
 Used For: Planting: Ornamental plant
 Medicine: Poultice
 Others: Oil for lamps

Danger: Parts of the plant are poisonous!



Lm

Esparto Grass, Halfa
(*Lygeum spartum*)

Max. Height: 0.6 m
 Bloom: May
 Flower: Inconspicuous
 Natural Habitat: Mediterranean salt steppes, sandy, clayey, gypsaceous soils



Cultivation: Full sun; light loamy soil
 Used For: Planting: Clay slope stabilisation, erosion control
 Others: Fiber production for paper, mats, ropes



Lm

Silvery Ragwort, Krombil-Bahar Isfar
(*Senecio bicolor*)

Max. Height: 1 m
 Bloom: Repeatedly
 Flower: Bright yellow
 Natural Habitat: Seaside localities
 Cultivation: Full sun; drought tolerant
 Danger: All parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested!



Lm

Tamarisk, Sigratal-Bruk
(*Tamarix africana*)

Max. Height: 8 m
 Bloom: Apr - Jun
 Flower: Pink, white
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, near the sea, at mouths of valleys and salt marshes
 Cultivation: Full sun; moist, calcareous soil; tolerates sea spray and saline conditions
 Used For: Planting: Hedge, small tree (easy to trim)



Lm

Tree Spurge, Tenghud tas-Sigra
(*Euphorbia dendroides*)

Max. Height: 2 m
 Bloom: Dec - May
 Flower: Bright yellow green
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, garrigue, rocky slopes of valleys and cliffs
 Cultivation: Full sun; free draining soil
 Used For: Planting: Ornamental plant (appearance changes: reddish dried leaves in late spring and leafless in summer)
 Danger: Milk sap is poisonous and skin irritating!



Lm

Holm Oak, Balluta
(*Quercus ilex*)

Max. Height: 30 m
 Bloom: May - Jun
 Flower: Inconspicuous
 Natural Habitat: Woodland
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; deep fertile loam, moist to dry clay or sand
 Used For: Planting: Afforestation, ornamental plant in garden and parks
 Food: Seed, coffee, oil



Lm

Sandarac Gum Tree, GharGhar
(*Tetraclinis articulata*)

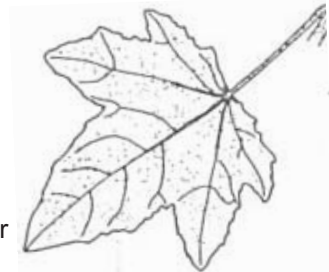
Max. Height: 15 m
 Bloom: Mar - Apr
 Flower: Inconspicuous
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, woodland
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; drought tolerant
 Used For: Planting: Afforestation, hedge
 Others: Incense, varnish, furniture, lacquer
 Special Note: National Tree of Malta



Lm

White Poplar, Sigratal-Luq
(*Populus alba*)

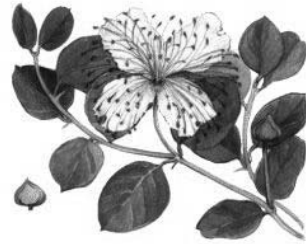
Max. Height: 30 m
 Bloom: Feb - Mar
 Flower: Inconspicuous greenish white
 Natural Habitat: Along watercourses
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; deep rich well drained soil, clay, loam, sand; drought tolerant, salt tolerant
 Used For: Planting: Ornamental plant
 Medicine: Fever, diarrhoea, diuretic
 Others: Windbreaks, firewood, paper industry, boxes, crates



Lm

Caper, Kappar
(*Capparis orientalis*)

Max. Height: 1.5 m
 Bloom: May - Sept
 Flower: Eye catching pinkish white
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, garrigue, cliffs, walls, fortifications
 Cultivation: Full sun; nutrient poor gravelly soil, well drained dry soil; drought tolerant, salt tolerant
 Used For: Planting: Cover rubble walls, hedge
 Food: Edible flower buds pickled in vinegar
 Medicine: rheumatism, inflammation, arteriosclerosis diuretic



Lm



Chaste Tree, Sigratal-Virgi
(*Vitex agnus-castus*)

Max. Height: 3 m
 Bloom: Jun - Nov
 Flower: Violet, purple, blue
 Natural Habitat: Along watercourses in coastal areas, saline marshlands
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; loamy soil, groundwater; salt tolerant
 Used For: Food: Seasoning, herb
 Medicine: Menstrual problems, tincture for paralysis, infertility, hormonal imbalances, weakness, depression
 Others: Perfume, decorating purpose



Lm



Common Elder, Sebuqa Sewda
(*Sambucus nigra*)

Max. Height: 10 m
 Bloom: Apr - Jul
 Flower: Eye catching white, black berries
 Natural Habitat: Hedgerows, scrub, woods, waste places, roadsides, disturbed soils
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; tolerates most soils, prefers a moist, loamy soil
 Used For: Food: Wine, jam, jelly
 Medicine: Soothing to eyes, colds, respiratory problems, headaches, wounds



Lm



Rosemary, Klin
(*Rosmarinus officinalis*)

Max. Height: 2 m
 Bloom: Nov - May
 Flower: Purple blue to white
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, garrigue, scrub, rocky places
 Cultivation: Full sun; slightly alkaline light dry soil; drought tolerant
 Used For: Planting: Landscaping, ground cover, hedge
 Food: Flavouring, tea, sweets
 Medicine: Antiseptic, stimulant, mild analgesic, disinfectant, calming nerves, relaxing muscles, headaches
 Others: Potpourri, cosmetic (infusion, hair lotion)



Lm



Sea Samphire, Buzbiez il-Bahar
(*Crithmum maritimum*)

Max. Height: 0.25 m
 Bloom: Jul - Oct
 Flower: Golden Yellow
 Natural Habitat: Sea shores, cliffs and rocks by the sea, salt marshes
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; moist salty or well drained poor, dry soil; salt tolerant
 Used For: Food: Raw or cooked, condiment, pot herb, pickle
 Medicine: Digestive, diuretic, indigestion, obstruction, obesity, sluggishness
 Others: Perfumery



Lm



Shrubby Orache, Bjanka
(*Atriplex halimus*)

Max. Height: 2 m
 Bloom: Jul - Oct
 Flower: Inconspicuous
 Natural Habitat: Sandy and rocky seashores, salt marshes
 Cultivation: Full sun; sandy and loamy soil, dry or moist soil, saline or very alkaline soil; wind resistant, salt tolerant, very hardy
 Used For: Planting: Dense or formal hedges (easy to trim), soil stabilization, reclamation
 Food: Thickener for soups, bread
 Medicine: Antacid powder

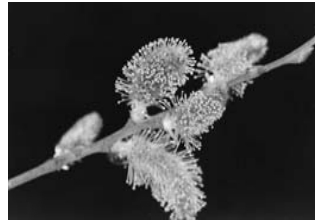


Lm



Mediterranean Willow, Zafzafa iz-zghira
(*Salix pedicellata*)

Max. Height: 10 m
 Bloom: Early spring
 Flower: Inconspicuous flowers (catkins)
 Natural Habitat: Woodland along watercourses (Wied)
 Cultivation: Full sun; deep, moist well drained soil
 Used For: Planting: Streambank stabilisation
 Medicine: Treatment of ache and fever
 Others: Basket weaving



Lm

Myrtle, Rihan
(*Myrtus communis*)

Max. Height: 3 m
 Bloom: May - Aug
 Flower: White
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, moist places, thickets, rocky slopes
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; well drained dry soil or neutral to alkaline loam; drought-tolerant
 Used For: Planting: Ornamental plant (easy to trim)
 Food: Aromatic food flavouring
 Medicine: Urinary infections, digestive problems, diarrhoea, bronchitis, sinusitis
 Others: Cosmetic, basket weaving, firewood, tool handles, furniture



Lm

Olive leaved Germander, Zebbugija
(*Teucrium fruticans*)

Max. Height: 1.5 m
 Bloom: Jun - Aug
 Flower: Dark azure blue
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, garrigue, dry rocky slopes
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; well drained to dry sandy or stony alkaline soil
 Used For: Planting: Rock and herb garden, topiary, hedge



Lm

Dwarf Palm, Gummara
(*Chamaerops humilis*)

Max. Height: 3 m
 Bloom: Apr - Jun
 Flower: Yellow
 Natural Habitat: Coastal areas, dry scrub and rocky or sandy slopes
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; well drained moderately fertile soil, dry sandy or rocky soil; drought tolerant
 Used For: Planting: Ornamental Plant
 Food: Vegetable/Palm-cabbage
 Others: Wickerwork, cordage
 Danger: Plant has spines or sharp edges; be cautious when handling!



Lm

Golden Samphire, Xorbett
(*Inula crithmoides*)

Max. Height: 1 m
 Bloom: Jun - Aug
 Flower: Yellow
 Natural Habitat: Salt lakes, seashores, shingle banks, maritime cliffs
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; well drained, deep, fertile, moist soil; salt-tolerant
 Used For: Food: Raw or cooked, pot herb



Lm

Hoary Rockrose, Cistu Roza
(*Cistus creticus*)

Max. Height: 1 m
 Bloom: Feb - Jun
 Flower: Pink, purple red
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, garrigue, rocky slopes
 Cultivation: Full sun; dry or moist well drained light sandy soil
 Used For: Food: Tea, condiment
 Medicine: Catarrh, diarrhoea, antibiotic effects, stimulant
 Others: Soaps, perfumery



Lm

Lentisk, Deru
(*Pistacia lentiscus*)

Max. Height: 6 m
 Bloom: Feb - Mar
 Flower: Dark red (male), greenish (female), red berries
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, garrigue, dry rocky slopes
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; well drained to dry sandy or stony alkaline soil
 Used For: Food: Condiment, chewing gum, sweets, liqueurs
 Medicine: Astringent
 Others: Floral bouquets, perfume, tan leather



 Lm



Maltese Cliff Orache, Bjanka tal-Irdum
(*Cremnophyton lanfrancoi*)

Max. Height: 0.8 m
 Bloom: Late summer - early autumn
 Flower: Inconspicuous purplish red
 Natural Habitat: Coastal cliffs
 Cultivation: Full sun
 Used For: Planting: Ornamental plant, low hedge
 Special Note: Endemic



 Lm



Maltese Everlasting, Sempreviva t'Ghawdex
(*Helichrysum melitense*)

Max. Height: 0.6 m
 Bloom: May - Jun
 Flower: Yellow
 Natural Habitat: Limestone coastal cliffs and scree
 Cultivation: Full sun
 Used For: Planting: Ornamental plant, low hedge
 Medicine: Rheumatism, asthma
 Special Note: Endemic



 Lm



Maltese Rock Centuary, Widnet il-Bahar
(*Centaurea crassifolia*)

Max. Height: 0.5 m
 Bloom: May - Jul
 Flower: Magenta
 Natural Habitat: Seaside cliffs and screes
 Cultivation: Full sun; well drained soil; hardy
 Used For: Planting: Decoration for public gardens and centre strips, hedge, in roundabouts
 Special Note: Endemic
 National Plant of Malta



 Lm



Mediterranean Buckthorn, Alaternu
(*Rhamnus alaternus*)

Max. Height: 4 m
 Bloom: Mar - Apr
 Flower: Greenish yellow (male)
 Natural Habitat: Maquis, garrigue, scrub, pine forests, coastal areas
 Cultivation: Light shade to full sun; drought tolerant, very tolerant to salt laden winds
 Used For: Planting: Hedge



 Lm



Mediterranean Thyme, Saghtar
(*Thymus capitatus*)

Max. Height: 0.5 m
 Bloom: May - Oct
 Flower: Purple, white
 Natural Habitat: Garrigue, rocky slopes
 Cultivation: Full sun; tolerates most soils, prefers well-drained calcareous soil
 Used For: Food: Honey, condiment, tea
 Medicine: Antiseptic, disinfectant
 Others: Deodorant, perfumery, soaps, mouth wash



 Lm





One of our goals is to make the Maltese Islands greener by planting native trees and shrubs and by rehabilitating degraded areas.

You can help us achieve this aim by adopting your own tree or adopting one in someone else's name for a special occasion, like birth, marriage or birthday. We will give you a certificate upon adoption.

For just Lm5 you can add a tree to the Maltese landscape and to the world.

We are also offering the possibility to have group adoptions. Individuals can form a group and share the adoption fee. The group will adopt trees according to the sum given to us. For example a group giving Lm20, would have adopted 4 trees.

Find further information about Maltese plants on:
www.maltawildplants.com

Note: Information on the medicinal use of plants is given for general information purposes only and shows our dependence on nature. In case of need one should always consult a medical practitioner.

The Gaia Foundation
Elysium Tree Nursery & Visitor Centre,
Ghajn Tuffieha Road, Ghajn Tuffieha SPB 07, Malta
Tel/Fax: +356 21584474/3 email: admin@projectgaia.org

www.projectgaia.org

Printed on recycled paper.

The Gaia Foundation's Elysium Tree Nursery

Ghajn Tuffieha



The Gaia Foundation's Elysium Tree Nursery is Malta's first nursery for indigenous trees and shrubs.

It was set up in 1999 in a disused sewage treatment plant at Ghajn Tuffieha to propagate trees, shrubs and grasses that are native to the Maltese Islands.

The nursery has gained experience in the propagation and cultivation of several rare and threatened plant species. Some of them are classified as endemic, found only on the Maltese Islands. The tree nursery provides native plant material for afforestation and habitat restoration projects as well as Maltese plants for private gardens and parks.

This brochure focuses on 30 of the most important species that the tree nursery currently houses.

