

The Lulav and Etrog Set

Assembling the 4 species: The Lulav set includes 2 willow branches and 3 myrtle branches. The lulav is a single palm branch and occupies the central position in the grouping. It comes with a holder (made from its own leaves) which has two extensions. With the backbone (the solid spine) of the lulav facing you and this holder in place near the bottom, two willow branches are placed in the left extension and three myrtle branches are placed in the right. The myrtle should extend to a greater height than the willows.

During the blessing and waving, this whole cluster is held in the right hand, the etrog is held in the left, and the two should be touching one another.

It is a mitzvah to wave the lulav on each of the first seven days of Sukkot. The proper time is in the morning — either before the morning service or during the service immediately before the Hallel.

Blessing for Waving the Lulav

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ עַל נְטִילַת לִילָב.

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu al netilat lulav.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us concerning the waving of the lulav.

On the first day of waving add:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֵחֵינּוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה.

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam shehehianu v'kiyemanu v'higiyanu lazman hazeh.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has granted us life, sustenance, and permitted us to reach this season.

After the Blessing

Before the blessing, the etrog is held with its *pittum* (stemlike protrusion) pointed downward. After the blessing is said, it is inverted so that the pittum faces up. At this point you wave/shake the lulav (together with the other three) in the following manner:

1. Stand facing east.
2. Hold the lulav out to the east (in front of you) and shake it three times. Each time the motion of shaking should be a drawing in to you—reach and draw in, reach out and draw in, reach out and draw in.
3. Repeat the same motion three times to your right (south), behind over your shoulder (west), to your left (north), raising it up above you, lowering it down below you.
4. All of these should be done slowly and deliberately—concentrating on the symbolisms and intentions of the act.