FOUR SPECIES: LULAV AND ETROG

LULAV: BEAUTY

Lulav: If First Day of Sukkot Is Shabbat

You do not need to buy a fancy or expensive <u>lulay</u> and <u>etrog</u> if the first day of <u>Sukkot</u> is <u>Shabbat</u>, since the <u>Torah</u> requirement for the <u>etrog</u> to be beautiful is only on the first day of <u>Sukkot</u>.

LULAV: SIZES

Palm Branch Sizes

Minimum length for <u>lulav</u> (palm branch): Spine must be at least 16" long, not including the length of the leaves. At least 4" of the spine of the <u>lulav</u> must be above the tops of the willows and myrtles.

Myrtle and Willow Branch Sizes

Each of the myrtle and willow branches must be at least 12 inches long.

LULAV: CHOOSING

Lulav: Choosing: Condition

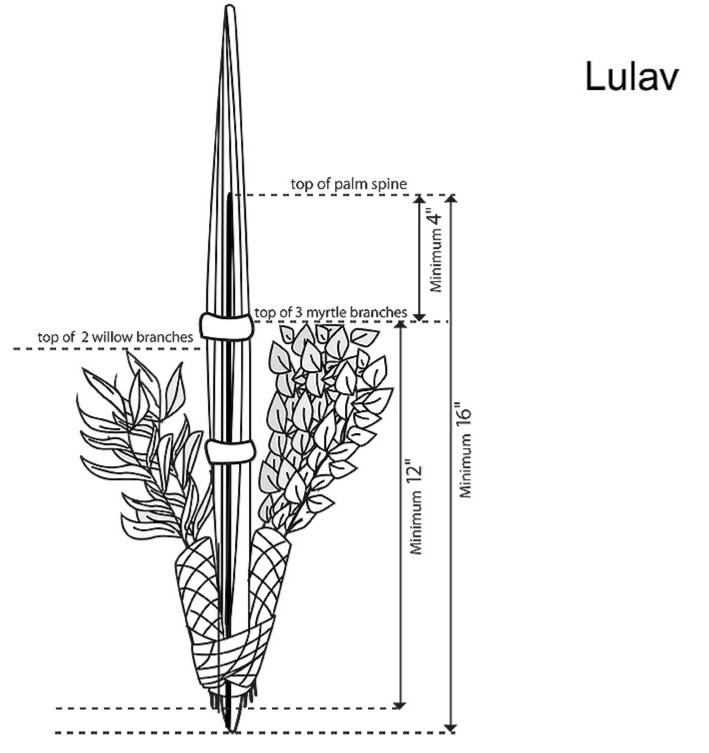
A <u>lulay</u>, willow branches, or myrtle branches are only disqualified/<u>pasul</u> if the leaves are so dry that they will crack if you bend them. Being moldy does not disqualify them.

LULAV: SETTING UP

To Set Up a Lulav

To set up a <u>lulav</u>: hold with spine facing you, with three myrtle branches (<u>hadassim</u>) on the right and two willow branches (<u>aravot</u>) on the left. It is customary to put the myrtle and willow branches into a holder made of palm leaves.

NOTE Before *Sukkot* begins, open any sealed plastic bags that contain the willow and myrtle branches, as you may not cut them open on the festival days (the first and second days outside of *Eretz Yisrael*).



LULAV: BORROWING

Lulav: When You May Borrow

You may borrow a <u>lulav</u> on all days of <u>Sukkot</u> except the first day (or first two days outside of <u>Eretz Yisrael</u>). On the first (two) day(s), you may acquire a <u>lulav</u> and <u>etrog</u> by having a friend "give" them to you as a gift, even if you will later "give" them back to your friend, also as a gift.

NOTE If you intended to use someone else's <u>lulay</u> on the first day of <u>Sukkot</u>, it is considered as if the <u>lulay</u> is yours, even without doing the normal acquisition.

Lulav: Husband and Wife

A *man*'s wife does not own the *lulay* with him (and a wife's husband does not own her *lulay*), but it is assumed that each gives their *lulay* to the other (on the first and second day of *Sukkot*) as a gift with a condition that the recipient will give the *lulay* back to the other spouse as a gift once finished.

LULAV: HOW TO BLESS

LULAV: WHO SHOULD BLESS

Lulav: Who Should Bless: Women

Women and girls do not need to bless over or wave the *lulav*; but if they do, it is a *mitzva*.

LULAV: WHERE TO BLESS

Lulav: Where To Bless: Sukka or Synagogue

Say blessings on the *lulav* and *etrog* in the *sukka* or in *synagogue*.

LULAV: WHEN TO BLESS

Lulav: When To Bless: Daytime

Only say the blessing on the *lulav* during the day.

Lulav: Shabbat

Don't pick up the *lulav* or say the blessing on *Shabbat*.

LULAV: HOLD, BLESS, SHAKE

Lulav: Hold, Bless, Shake

To fulfill the commandment of <u>lulav</u> and <u>etrog</u>, you must hold them together the way they grow: stems down. But since you fulfill the commandment as soon as you hold the <u>Four Species</u> together this way, you must first pick up the <u>etrog</u> inverted (stem up) and then say the blessing, as follows:

- Hold the <u>lulay</u> with the spine facing you and the myrtle on the right, willows on the left, and the *etrog* with the *pitom* (opposite the stem) down;
- Say the blessings for the *lulav*;
- Turn the etrog right side up (stem-side down) and hold the lular and etrog together; and
- Shake the Four Species together.

NOTE Waving (or shaking) the <u>lulay</u> is a universally accepted custom with the force of <u>halacha</u>. We show that God is present in all directions by waving the <u>lulay</u> in the four compass directions, plus up and down. There are various customs of the sequence in which to wave the <u>lulay</u>. One common sequence is east; south; west; north; up; down. Wave the <u>Four Species</u> three times in each direction.

NOTE Although the <u>lulav</u>'s spine should face you as you hold it, you have still fulfilled the requirement of <u>lulav</u> if the spine was facing away or if the willows and myrtles are on the incorrect sides of the <u>lulav</u>.

Lulav: Hallel at Home or in Synagogue

Ideally, take your *lulav* and *etrog* to *synagogue* and say *hallel* with the *minyan*. *B'di'avad*, it is OK to say *hallel* and the blessings and wave the *lulav* at home.

Lulav: How To Wave During Hallel

Wave the <u>lulav</u> in all six directions each time when saying <u>Hodu l'Adonai</u>... and, later, <u>Ana Adonai</u>... and again in the final <u>Hodu</u> in <u>Hallel</u>:

- Hold together the *lulay* and *etrog* during the entire procedure, *pitom* up, *etrog* in left hand.
- At each word in <u>Hodu l'Adonai</u>... and at each syllable in <u>Ana Adonai</u>, shake the <u>lulav/etrog</u> together three times, advancing through the sequence of east, south, west, north, up, down.

For Hodu l'Adonai:

- At *Hodu*, shake three times to the east;
- At l'Adonai, don't shake but hold the lulay and etrog up while standing straight;
- At ki, shake three times to the south, etc..

For Ana Adonai,

- At "A," shake three times to the east;
- At "na, shake three times to the south;
- At Adonai, stand straight and hold the lulav and etrog up;
- At "ho," shake three times to the west;
- At "shi," shake three times to the north, etc.

LULAV: STORING

Lulav: Storing: Replacing into Water

You may put the myrtle and willow branches into water after using them only if they were in water before the <u>Sukkot</u> holiday began. You may not add water on <u>Shabbat</u>, but you may on the other <u>Jewish festival</u> days. You may change the water only on *chol ha'moed*.

LULAV: DISPOSING

Lulav: Disposing

You may dispose of a <u>lulay</u> in any way that is not degrading. So, you may drop it into a field or put it on a lawn--unless animals might eat it or step on it or if it will be subject to poor treatment before it decays. Don't dispose of a <u>lulay</u> or <u>etrog</u> directly into the garbage. Burn, bury, or wrap them in a bag or one layer of plastic and you may throw it into normal garbage.

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