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This month shall be the beginning of months for you;
it is to be the first month of the year to you. (Exodus 12:2)



Devorah's Date Tree

The most reliable and respected New Moon and Barley Inspection reports from Israel

25+ Years Experience
New Moon Observers Across Israel
Thorough Barley Inspections

Dear Friends,

As we are preparing to carry out our first Barley Inspection of the season in just a few weeks, we thought this would be a good opportunity to respond to your questions about whether we should be looking at planted or volunteer fields.

To remind you, a planted field is one in which the soil is tilled (this breaks up crusted soil, mixes organic matter into the soil, and helps control weeds), the crop is planted (this prevents the stalks from growing closely together and being suffocated), and the crop is rotated (this

prevents the soil from inevitably losing the nutrients the crop needs). Prepping the soil also makes the soil able to absorb the rainfall, so the stalks can use it to produce full healthy seeds. And the fields mature pretty uniformly, and the heads don't easily break, which makes the crop harvestable.

In contrast, there are what are referred to as volunteer fields. These are fields which no one asked the barley to grow there, so the soil isn't prepped, and the seeds aren't planted. Rather it grows there voluntarily, because barley is an annual crop, which means it reproduces and germinates on its own each year. Because the soil isn't prepped and the seeds aren't planted, the barley in a volunteer field is growing in an environment which is not very conducive, and as a result the barley becomes very stressed, and tries to develop and produce seed very quickly. This is why the stalks in a volunteer field are very thin, and seeds very flat, and they often dry out before they have finished developing. This is also the reason one finds extreme differences of maturity in different patches of the field, and the heads break very easily, and the field eventually gets overtaken by oats, flowers, and other weeds. This is why a volunteer field can't be harvested, and why the Bedouins opt instead to bring their sheep to graze on the free pasture.

So, do you think we should be looking at planted or volunteer fields to determine the beginning of the year? It seems to me that we are supposed to determine the beginning of the year based on planted fields, that produce a healthy crop, that can be harvested when it's ready, and can sustain a nation (Gen 3:19, Ex 23:10, Ex 23:16, Lev 23:10, Lev 23:14, Joshua 5:12).

On a side note, a question which often arises related to volunteer fields, is whether an Omer of Aviv Barley is enough to begin the year. The question arises because it can be possible to find a patch of barley which looks very developed, in an otherwise underdeveloped field, this is because the patch is actually just extremely stressed.

I also think it's important to remember that the Omer isn't a standalone thing, rather it's taken from the harvest (Lev 23:10, Lev 23:14), and that Chodesh HaAviv (Month of the Aviv), is

the month in which the barley fields (not a patch) are harvest-ready, meaning a plague of hail would be devastating (Ex 9:31) and it can feed a small nation (Joshua 5:10-12).

As for our upcoming Barley Inspection(s), it's still raining and very cold here, and the barley heads are only in the very beginning stages of their development. Therefore, our first official Barley Inspection of the season, is currently scheduled for just prior to the New Moon Observation of March 11, 2024, and we could really use your prayers and support to ensure its success. Contributions can be made in any currency via Paypal <https://bit.ly/3QSSXZ2> , Patreon <https://www.patreon.com/datetree> , or by sending a Check to Devorah's Date Tree, POB4263, Jerusalem 9104201, ISRAEL.

2024

1st MONTH ^{potential} HOLIDAY DATES

according to the Biblical Calendar

1st Month Holidays	Scenario #1 <i>New Moon sighted on 11-March-2024</i>	Scenario #2 <i>New Moon sighted on 12-March-2024</i>
1 st Day Chag HaMatzot	<i>sunset Mar 25 - sunset Mar 26</i> Passover Sacrifice would be brought on Mar 25 at sunset	<i>sunset Mar 26 - sunset Mar 27</i> Passover Sacrifice would be brought on Mar 26 at sunset
Yom HaNafat HaOmer	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2024
7 th Day Chag HaMatzot	<i>sunset Mar 31 - sunset Apr 1</i>	<i>sunset Apr 1 - sunset Apr 2</i>
Chag HaShavuot	<i>sunset May 18 - sunset May 19</i>	<i>sunset May 18 - sunset May 19</i>
1st Month Holidays	Scenario #3 <i>New Moon sighted on 9-April-2024</i>	Scenario #4 <i>New Moon sighted on 10-April-2024</i>
1 st Day Chag HaMatzot	<i>sunset Apr 23 - sunset Apr 24</i> Passover Sacrifice would be brought on Apr 23 at sunset	<i>sunset Apr 24 - sunset Apr 25</i> Passover Sacrifice would be brought on Apr 24 at sunset
Yom HaNafat HaOmer	April 28, 2024	April 28, 2024
7 th Day Chag HaMatzot	<i>sunset Apr 29 - sunset Apr 30</i>	<i>sunset Apr 30 - sunset May 1</i>
Chag HaShavuot	<i>sunset Jun 15 - sunset Jun 16</i>	<i>sunset Jun 15 - sunset Jun 16</i>

The above dates assume the year begins with healthy Aviv fields, and that Yom HaNafat HaOmer (The Day of the Wave Sheaf Offering), is to be observed the Sunday during Chag HaMatzot (Feast of Unleavened Bread) [see Joshua 5:10-12]. Because the Biblical Calendar is an observational calendar, the actual dates can only be determined once we carry out the necessary Barley Inspections, and observe the crescent New Moon from the Land of Israel. Our first Barley Inspection is currently scheduled for just prior to March 11, 2024. Please partner with us to restore the Biblical Calendar. We could really use your support to carry out this important work.

Please partner with us to restore the Biblical Calendar

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If you have a question regarding the Biblical Calendar, feel free to [send it to us](#) and we'll do our best to try and answer it in a future newsletter. All of our answers are based on relevant Biblical verses, what we've seen in the Land over the past few decades, and much study and prayer.

[Subscribe](#) to our e-mail list and social media platforms, to ensure you receive our reliable first-hand reports and important information regarding the Biblical Calendar. ⇒ linktr.ee/devorahsdatetree

Please consider partnering with us to provide reliable first-hand New Moon and Barley Inspection reports from Israel. Contributions can be made in any currency via [PayPal](#), [Patreon](#), or by sending a [Check](#) to Devorah's Date Tree, POB 4263, Jerusalem 9104201, ISRAEL.

Together we can restore the Biblical Calendar!

Devorah Gordon
Jerusalem, Israel

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Devorah's Date Tree organizes New Moon Observations and Barley Inspections in the Land of Israel. This important effort is headed by Devorah Gordon, who has been living in Israel, and looking for the crescent New Moon and participating in Barley Inspections, for over 25 years. Today our reports reach countless people around the world and are considered the most reliable and respected New Moon and Barley Inspection reports from the Holy Land. If reliable first-hand New Moon and Barley Inspection reports from Israel are of value to you, please support our efforts to restore the Biblical Calendar. Contributions can be made via [PayPal](#), [Patreon](#), or by sending a [check](#) to Devorah's Date Tree, POB 4263, Jerusalem 9104201, ISRAEL. Together we can restore the Biblical Calendar!



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