

## Sukkot: Pomegranates and a Harvest of Goals and Community

Sukkot, the Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. Sukkot, also called *Z'man Simchateinu* (Season of Our Rejoicing), is the only festival associated with an explicit commandment to rejoice with others. Another name for Sukkot is *Chag HaAsif*, (Festival of the Ingathering), representing a time to give thanks for the bounty of the earth during the fall harvest.

**In what ways is the pomegranate reflective of my aspirational goals this year?  
If my goals are achieved, and they are wildly successful, what do the benchmarks of success look like?  
In what ways can my communities help lift me up towards achieving my goals?**

### WHOLENESS

613 seeds are in a pomegranate.  
6+1+3=10. 1+0=1. This idea invokes the concept of integrity, whose root is integer, which means being whole. And, in monotheistic religions, God is expressed as One.

### RIGHTEOUSNESS

According to Jewish tradition, the pomegranate symbolizes righteousness, since its numerous seeds hint to the 613 mitzvot of the Torah (Talmud, Berakhot 57a)

### SPLENDOR

Pomegranates also appear in the mystical text in Kabbalah of *Pardes Rimonim* (garden of pomegranates) – a comprehensive interpretation of *Zohar*, the primary text of Kabbalah, which means 'splendor'.



### NESHAMA - SOUL

The smooth yet uneven exterior of the pomegranate gives way to the jeweled seeds covered in sparkling flesh of ruby and crimson.

### FRUITFULNESS

The pomegranate also symbolizes fruitfulness. It is one of the Seven Species in which the land of Israel was blessed (Deuteronomy 8:8).  
May it be Your will, God, that our merits be as plentiful as the seeds of a pomegranate.

### LEADERSHIP

The top of the pomegranate is crown-shaped, and it is said that Solomon designed his crown based on it. Solomon asked for wisdom and God gave him wisdom, knowledge, riches and honor.