



SHRUBS OF THE HOLY BIBLE

A Mighty Arrow



Crown of Thorns: (Greek: Akontha)

Common though out the Holy Land, this shrub was often dried for kindling. It is accepted by scholars as the Shrub used by the soldiers to fashion the cruel head of our Lord Jesus Christ. Tiny white flowers appear in spring.

Almond: (Hebrew: Shaked)

This tree blossoms in the Holy Land as early as January. The fruit is wrapped in a heavy covering, wrinkled and leathery, which encases the shell of the nut. These nuts are used to produce oil. One hundred and fourteen pounds of fruit will give fifty pounds of oil. At one time the fruit was featured as the design on the shekel.



Box: (Hebrew: Teasshur)

Trees grow in the Lebanon. The leaves are much longer than the English variety, for centuries the woods has been used for making musical instruments, spoons and combs. It was a favorite with the Romans, who clipped it into shapes for their ornamental gardens (topiary work). In England, tombs going back to Roman times were found to contain springs of this tree, perhaps in place of myrtle, which was used in Italy for this purpose.

Scarlet: (Quercus, coccifera, Hebrew: Shani)

Its leaves are small and spiny and the bush is rather like a holly with acorns! Its young shoots are covered with soft down on which the kermes insect, *Chermes Illicis*, breeds. These insects give a beautiful scarlet dye. Sprigs were used in purification rites after a plague. When the bark of this oak is steeped in boiling water it gives a black dye which was used for dyeing hair. The Dyers' Company of England chose sprigs of this dye plant for their heraldic crest. It is still in use.

