



# Local Plants and Trees

# Harruba – (Carob Tree)



- The carob tree is a Maltese indigenous tree and a member of the legume (peas and beans) family which grows in Mediterranean areas.
- It is known to live for more than a thousand years.
- It is a very common tree in Malta.
- This tree produces carob pods.
- There are male and female carob trees, but only the female tree produces pods.
- The carob pod is used for many things. Once ripe the pod can be eaten by humans and a variety of animals.

# Is-Sigra taz-Żnuber – (Aleppo Pine)



- The Aleppo Pine tree is a Maltese indigenous tree and grows in most Mediterranean countries. It is a coniferous, evergreen tree.
- The leaves are very slender like 'needles' and are light green in colour and produced in pairs.
- The cones are green at first, ripening to brown when 24 months old.
- There are no male or female Aleppo Pine trees, but the tree produces male and female cones which start growing in autumn.
- Female cones are usually closer to the top and grow as individuals. Male cones grow in clusters.
- When one of the branches of the Aleppo Pine tree is cut off, the tree will never again grow another branch from the same place but will remain without that branch for the rest of its life.
- When a branch is cut off, a sticky substance called 'resin' comes out from the tree trunk. This is a natural disinfectant which the tree produces to disinfect its wound.

# Fidloqqom (Borage)



- The flowers are blue, a rare colour for flowers in Malta.
- The flowers open in winter and spring.
- The leaves feel rough because they are covered with spiny hairs.
- In the past, people boiled this flower and used the drink as a medicine for cough.

# Qarsu / Haxixa Ingliza (Cape Sorrel)



- The flowers look like yellow trumpets.
- The flowers open in winter and spring.
- The leaves look like three hearts stuck together at the points.
- This plant is very common and grows everywhere.

# Bużbierz (Fennel)



- The flowers grow in yellow bunches.
- Fennel grows in spring and summer.
- The leaves look like threads and they smell nice.
- People eat fennel seeds and the bottom part of the stem.

# Pappoççi Hamra (Greater Snapdragon)



- The flowers look like pink slippers.
- Snapdragons grow all year round.
- Snapdragons grow in roadsides and even grow out of walls.
- If you squeeze the flower gently from the side, the petals open like a little dragon's mouth.

# Saghtar (Thyme)



- *The plant makes lots of small violet flowers.*
- *The flowers open in late spring and early summer.*
- *This plant grows in rocky places.*
- *Thyme has a nice, strong scent.*

# Lellux (Crown Daisy)



- The flowers have many bright yellow petals.
- The flowers open in winter and spring.
- It is very common in fields and roadsides.
- If you see a daisy petal folded in, check if there's a little spider hiding under it.

# Fagqus il-Hmir (Squirting Cucumber)



- The flowers are pale yellow and they have five petals.
- The squirting cucumber makes flowers all year round.
- The plant has hairy leaves, hairy stalks and hairy seed pods.
- The ripe fruits shoot out the seeds –watch your eyes!

# Harira Katla/Hamra (Blue/Scarlet Pimpernel)



- The flowers are small, blue and delicate.
- The flowers open in spring.
- It is a very short plant with bright green leaves.
- The flowers can also be red, and then it is called Scarlet Pimpernel.

# Pepprin Atmar (Poppy)



- The flowers have four big bright red petals.
- The flowers open in spring.
- Poppies are very common in fields and roadsides.
- There are red poppies, violet poppies and yellow poppies.