

# **Biblical Gardening**



**By Jeremy  
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### Jeremy McDonald

(Revision May 02, 2003)

## Introduction

**“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”**  
– Genesis 1:1

**T**HERE IS SO LITTLE WRITTEN ON THE SUBJECT OF **BIBLICAL GARDENING**. Plants that are mentioned in the bible have been covered well. I’m hoping, however, that this document will spark more interest in the laws of biblical gardening and help us to return to a more biblical way of life. This is not intended to be an exhaustive study, nor is it intended to be the only gardening reference in your collection. This document should be used in conjunction with the bible, and with organic gardening books, many of which have helpful hints at planting seeds, increasing yield/productivity, companion planting for pest control, and collecting seeds.

All biblical quotes are from the Authorized King James Version (AKJV) of the bible, with **the LORD** and **GOD** replaced with **YHWH**, the proper Hebrew transliterated name of God. This name is pronounced “Yahweh” according to many biblical scholars. “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, **Hallowed be thy name.**” – Matthew 6:9

Italics are retained and were added to the text by the translators of the AKJV. Removing them sometimes gives different meanings to the text. Bold is added for emphasis.

“And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for YHWH God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and ***there was not a man to till the ground.***” – Genesis 2:5

“And **YHWH** God **planted a garden** eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.” – Genesis 2:8

“And **YHWH** God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden **to dress it and to keep it.**” – Genesis 2:15

## **Open pollinated vs. hybridised**

In Genesis we have an established order that God created for life: kind after kind:

“And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself*, upon the earth: and it was so.

And the earth brought forth grass, *and herb yielding seed after his kind*, and *the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind*: and **God saw that *it was good.***” – Genesis 1:11-12

“And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, **after their kind**, and every winged fowl **after his kind**: and **God saw that *it was good.***” – Genesis 1:21

“And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature **after his kind**, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth **after his kind**: and it was so.

And God made the beast of the earth **after his kind**, and cattle **after their kind**, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth **after his kind**: and **God saw that *it was good.***” – Genesis 1:24-25

## **Segregated vs. integrated**

Kind after kind applies not only to species, but also to varieties within a species:

“Ye shall keep my statutes. **Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind: thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed:** neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woollen come upon thee.” – Leviticus 19:19

“**Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled.** Thou shalt not plough with an ox and an ass together. Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, *as* of woollen and linen together.” – Deuteronomy 22:9-11

Squash are infamous for cross-pollinating. Varieties within a family (c. pepo for instance) will mix and create defiled fruit if planted next to each other. Not only does the seed from such fruit not produce true offspring, but also, according to Deuteronomy 22:9 the fruit is also defiled.

In my opinion, currently rising allergies to foods such as wheat and oats may quite likely be due to hybridisation. Wheat has been “developed” recently in order to develop “better” strains that are easier to plough (resisting crop-falling caused from extreme wind/rain/hail).

“I smote you with blasting and with mildew and **with hail** in all the labours of your hands; **yet ye turned not to me, saith YHWH.**” – Haggai 2:17

Taking short cuts never seems to work. Pesticides poison food directly. Hybridisation poisons food indirectly.

## Tithing

### Saving seeds / giving seeds:

“Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, **that the field bringeth forth year by year.**” – Deuteronomy 14:22

### Food left for the poor / stranger:

“And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest.

And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard; **thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger:** *I am YHWH* your God.” – Leviticus 19:9-10

“And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleanings of thy harvest: **thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger:** *I am YHWH* your God.” – Leviticus 23:22

“When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: **that YHWH thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands.**

When thou beatest thine olive tree, thou shalt not go over the boughs again: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow.

When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not glean *it* afterward: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow.

And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt: therefore I command thee to do this thing.” – Deuteronomy 24:19-22

## Work / Rest

“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground for thy sake;** in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life;

**Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread,** till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” – Genesis 3:17-19

**“Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest,** an holy convocation; ye shall do no work *therein*: it is the Sabbath of YHWH in all your dwellings.”  
– Leviticus 23:3

There are other Sabbaths other than the seventh day Sabbath, some of which are mentioned hereafter.

National land rest vs. crop/fallow rotation

Biblically, national land rest is done every seven years, and every 50 years.

“And **YHWH** spake unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a Sabbath unto **YHWH**. **Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof;**

**But in the seventh year shall be a Sabbath of rest unto the land, a Sabbath for YHWH: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard.**

**That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: *for* it is a year of rest unto the land.**

**And the Sabbath of the land shall be meat for you; for thee, and for thy servant, and for thy maid, and for thy hired servant, and for thy stranger that sojourneth with thee,**

**And for thy cattle, and for the beast that *are* in thy land, shall all the increase thereof be meat.” – Leviticus 25:1-8**

“And thou shalt number seven Sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven Sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years.

Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth *day* of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land.

And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout *all* the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his family.

**A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed.**

**For it is the jubilee; it shall be holy unto you: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field.**

In the year of this jubilee ye shall return every man unto his possession.” – Leviticus 25:9-13

In feudal society, a four year rotation was done, leaving a rotating quarter of the ground fallow, falling short of the biblical plan.

Biblical punishment from YHWH is more severe and longer lasting from not following biblical Sabbaths.

“And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

Then shall the land enjoy her Sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye *be* in your enemies' land; *even* then shall the land rest, and enjoy her Sabbaths.

As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; **because it did not rest in your Sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.**" – Leviticus 26:31-35

The Babylonian captivity was for 70 years because the Israelites refused to let the land rest previously, and the land had to catch up on missing rest.

"And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:

To fulfil the word of YHWH by the mouth of Jer-e-mi'-ah, **until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath**, to fulfil threescore and ten years." – 2 Chronicles 36:20-21

## **Buying / Selling food**

From my understanding all biblical buying/selling is done with silver/gold, so in these days everyone growing their own food is the most logical way to avoid buying/selling with silver/gold, since none of us has any silver/gold any more.

**"And if thou sell ought unto thy neighbour, or buyest ought of thy neighbour's hand, ye shall not oppress one another:**

**According to the number of years after the jubilee thou shalt buy of thy neighbour, and according unto the number of years of the fruits he shall sell unto thee:**

**According to the multitude of years thou shalt increase the price thereof, and according to the fewness of years thou shalt diminish the price of it: for according to the number of the years of the fruits doth he sell unto thee.**

**Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I *am* YHWH your God.” – Leviticus 25:14-17**

### **What shall we eat the seventh year?**

“Wherefore ye shall do my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and ye shall dwell in the land in safety.

And the land shall yield her fruit, and ye shall eat your fill, and dwell therein in safety.

And if ye shall say, What shall we eat the seventh year? behold, we shall not sow, nor gather in our increase:

**Then I will command my blessing upon you in the sixth year, and it shall bring forth fruit for three years.**

**And ye shall sow the eighth year, and eat *yet* of old fruit until the ninth year; until her fruits come in ye shall eat *of the old store*.” – Leviticus 25:18-22**

The beginning of Leviticus 25 also tells us that we can still eat off the land in its resting state.



## **Biblical Harvest Holidays/Additional Tithing**

“Seven weeks shalt thou number unto thee: begin to number the seven weeks from *such time as* thou **beginnest to put the sickle to the corn.**

And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto **YHWH** thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give *unto YHWH thy God*, according as **YHWH** thy God hath blessed thee:

And thou shalt rejoice before **YHWH** thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy man-servant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow that *are* among you, in the place which **YHWH** thy God hath chosen to place his name there.

And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes.

Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, **after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine:**

And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the wide, that *are* within thy gates.

Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto **YHWH** thy God in the place which **YHWH** shall choose: **because YHWH thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice.**”  
– Deuteronomy 16:9-15

“Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, **when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land**, ye shall keep a feast unto

**YHWH** seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath.” – Leviticus 23:39

“And **YHWH** spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, **When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof**, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:

And he shall wave a sheaf before **YHWH**, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.” – Leviticus 23:9-11

### **Biblical Harvest Blessings/Curses**

Based on joyful obedience to **YHWH**'s laws, many of the blessings have to do with the harvest. Also many of the curses associated with breaking **YHWH**'s laws have to do with the harvest.

“And **YHWH** said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: *Am* I my brother's keeper?

And he said, What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

**And now art thou cursed from the earth**, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

**When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.**” – Genesis 4:9-12

“If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;

**Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.**

And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.” – Leviticus 26:3-5

“But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;

And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, *but* that ye break my covenant:

I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and **ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.**” – Leviticus 26:14-16

“And I will break the pride of your power; and **I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:**

**And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.**” – Leviticus 26:19-20

“And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of **YHWH**; and they shall be afraid of thee.

And **YHWH shall make thee plenteous** in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and **in the fruit of thy ground**, in the land which **YHWH** swore unto thy fathers to give thee.

**YHWH shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand:** and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.” – Deuteronomy 28:10-12

“But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of **YHWH** thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Cursed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and **cursed *shalt* thou *be* in the field.** Cursed *shall be* thy basket and **thy store.** Cursed *shall be* the fruit of thy body, and **the fruit of thy land,** and increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.” – Deuteronomy 28:15-18

“**The fruit of thy land,** and all thy labours, **shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up;** and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed away: So that thou shalt be mad for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.” – Deuteronomy 28:33-34

“**Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather *but* little in; for the locust shall consume it.**

**Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress *them*, but shalt neither drink *of* the wine, nor gather *the grapes*; for the worms shall eat them.**

**Thou shalt have olive trees throughout thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint *thyself* with the oil; for thine olive shall cast *his fruit*.**” – Deuteronomy 28:38-39

“**All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume.**” – Deuteronomy 28:42

**“Because thou servedst not YHWH thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all *things*;**

Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which YHWH shall send against thee, **in hunger**, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all *things*: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

YHWH shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, *as swift* as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

**And he shall eat** the fruit of thy cattle, and **the fruit of thy land**, until thou be destroyed: **which *also* shall not leave thee *either* corn, wine, or oil**, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.” – Deuteronomy 28:47-51

**“That which the palmer worm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.”** – Joel 1:4

**“The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, *even* all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.”** – Joel 1:12

## **Gardening in a time of war**

“And what man *is he* that hath planted a vineyard, and hath not *yet* eaten of it? **Let him *also* go and return unto his house**, lest he die in the battle, and another man eat of it.” – Deuteronomy 20:6

“When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an axe against them: for thou mayest eat of them, and

thou shalt not cut them down (for the tree of the field *is* man's *life*) to employ *them* in the siege:

Only the trees which thou knowest that they *be* not trees for meat, thou shalt destroy and cut them down; and thou shalt build bulwarks against the city that maketh war with thee, until it be subdued." – Deuteronomy 20:19-20

### **Neighbour's eating privileges**

**“When thou comest into thy neighbour's vineyard, then thou mayest eat grapes thy fill at thine own pleasure; but thou shalt not put *any* in thy vessel.**

**When thou comest into the standing corn of thy neighbour, then thou mayest pluck the ears with thine hand; but thou shalt not move a sickle unto thy neighbour's standing corn.” – Deuteronomy 23:24-25**

### **Dormant Oil Spray vs. “Organic” Spray**

If you spray your fruit trees or get someone else to spray your fruit trees, ask for the ingredients. If it contains sulphur, or anything else poisonous, I'd recommend not using it. You can use Dormant Oil spray which contains just 7% oil and 93% water and supposedly does the job of suffocating tiny bugs that can cause fruit scabs. Spray before the blossoms open. This is a little off topic, but needed to be mentioned, since an “organic” gardening specialist suggested using the “organic” spray, even though sulphur is poisonous. Makes me wonder what is classified as organic gardening.

### **Farm Animals**

Rules and regulations on raising farm animals are beyond the scope of this document. Animals intended for food are listed in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. This rules out geese and pigs for food (and ducks and many others). Peter's vision with the sheet with all manner of animals

(beginning with Acts 10:9) is explained later in the book of Acts (10:28 and 11:18).

## **Bloodmeal / Bonemeal**

There are many ties between blood/bones of unclean dead animals and uncleanness in the Bible. I would personally recommend using other alternates instead of bloodmeal / bonemeal.

**“Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they *are* unclean to you.”** – Leviticus 11:8

**“And every earthen vessel, whereinto *any* of them falleth, whatsoever *is* in it shall be unclean; and **ye shall break it.**”**  
– Leviticus 11:33

**“And if any part of their carcase fall upon any sowing seed which is to be sown it shall be clean.**

**But if any water be put upon the seed, and any part of their carcase fall thereon, it shall be unclean unto you.”**  
– Leviticus 11:37-38

Even **handling** bones/blood from dead **clean** animals creates uncleanness.

**“And if any beast, of which ye may eat, die; **he that toucheth the carcase thereof shall be unclean until the even.**”** – Leviticus 11:39

### **F. A. O.**

**1. Q.** I thought all those rules and regulations only applied to old testament times.

**A.** “Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.” - Romans 3:31

2. Q. This is all very interesting, but who has time for it all?

A. Unfortunately in today's "modern" society we are mostly all in the process of making "money" to buy food. This is really a convoluted way of getting food, and the more time goes on, the more store-bought food gets polluted via hybridisation / Integration (even organic food labels don't announce if they are hybridised/integrated), pesticides, genetic engineering (even to the point of possible experimenting with adding Measles/Hepatitis B to the genetic structure of plants for low cost mass vaccination campaigns) and other not-so-obvious non-biblical gardening practices. I would personally like to see a nation that follows YHWH's laws and grows its own food (and sooner rather than later). Let's return to sanity.

## Conclusion

I hope you have found this interesting and, particularly, useful. It would take a lifetime (maybe more) to study this subject completely. I hope that this document can be used to promote a healthy lifestyle and healthy living.

"The elder unto the well beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and **be in health**, even as thy soul prospereth." – 3 John 1:1-2

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.**" – Ecclesiastes 12:13



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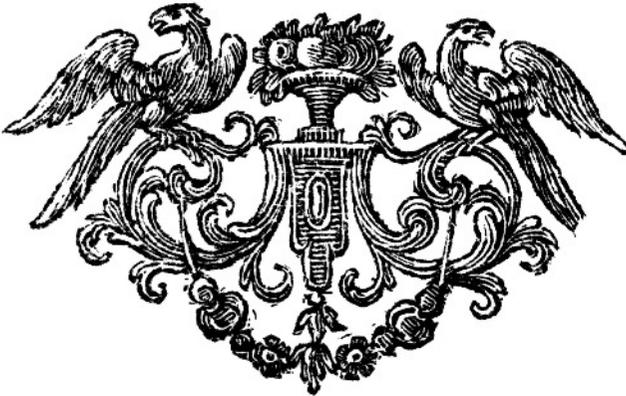
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