



WELCOMING FALL:  
**Sukkot**  
HOLIDAY  
FESTIVAL

**BEGINS**  
SUNDOWN  
Monday  
September 20  
15th of Tishrei

**ENDS**  
SUNDOWN  
Monday  
September 27  
21st of Tishrei

**What it IS...** We celebrate by *sharing our joy and life* in general over the fall *harvest*.  
A 7-day festival of joyous celebration commemorating the *harvest* and the *temporary shelters* used by Israelites while wandering through the desert.

**What to SAY...** *Chag Sameach!*  
HAPPY HOLIDAY!

**What to EAT & WHERE**  
Traditionally, all meals are eaten in a temporary structure called the *sukkah*. Typical menus include *fresh fruits and vegetables*.

**Where to GO...** You can find a sukkah in *backyards, on decks* and outside synagogues.  
Bring your own food & eat in the Plaza J Courtyard Sukkah *at the JCC!*  
Build your own sukkah in *your yard* or on *your deck*.  
The *blessing* before eating: *Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha'olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu leishev b'sukkah.*

**What to DO...** Build a *sukkah* – eat, sleep, and invite friends.  
Sukkah kits are available online.

**THE SUKKAH STRUCTURE:**

- Must be at least 27x27 square inches.
- Must have three walls.
- The roofing must be of detached vegetation and stars should be visible at night.
- We decorate the Sukkah's interior with fruits & flowers.

Shake the *lulav* and *etrog*!

Bringing the Four Species (shown below) together represents the need to unite our feelings, actions, speech and outlook.

- HADAS** – Myrtle Branch (eye shaped leaves) represents our outlook, inedible but smells good.
- LULAV** – Palm Branch (spine-like) signifies our actions, edible but no scent.
- ETROG** – Citron (heart shaped) stands for our feelings, great taste and fragrance.
- ARAVA** – Willow Branch (leaves like lips) expresses our speech, neither edible nor fragrant.

**MORE HOLIDAYS!**

**Hoshana Rabba**

**BEGINS** SUNDOWN Sunday September 26

**ENDS** SUNDOWN Monday September 27

This day marks the end of *Sukkot* and is associated with a ceremony where we pray for rain.

**Shmini Atzeret**

**BEGINS** SUNDOWN Monday September 27

**ENDS** SUNDOWN Tuesday September 28

This holiday immediately follows the end of *Sukkot* and is a time to celebrate and incorporate joy of all the previous holidays.

**Simchat Torah**

**BEGINS** SUNDOWN Tuesday September 28

**ENDS** SUNDOWN Wednesday September 29

This holiday marks the completion and beginning again of the Torah reading cycle. It is common to see people dancing in the street in circles or *hakafof* with the Torah.