

L-Għargħar u l-użu tiegħu fil-Bonsai

- Il-kelma **Għargħar** gejjja mill-isem Għarbi **Araar**.
- Ismijiet oħra huma 'Sandarac Gum Tree' u 'Thyine Tree'.

- Is-sigra ta' l-għargħar hija s-sigra Nazzjonali ta' Malta. Din giet iddikjarata hekk fis-16 ta' Jannar tas-sena 1992.
- Mill-1993, l-istess sigra hija mharsa bil-ligi permezz ta' Avviz Legali Numru 49 tal-1993.
- Din is-sigra hija mnizzla fil-lista tal-Kunsill ta' l-Ewropa ta' pjanti rari, mhedda u endemici ta' l-Ewropa.
- Hija tidher ukoll fil-lista ta' pjanti mhedda ppublikata fl-1998 mill-Għaqda Internazzjonali tal-Harsien tan-Natura.

- L-isem botaniku huwa **Tertaclynis Articulata**, u jiddiskrivi l-mod kif il-weraq, f'forma ta' skwami f'erba' fillieri, jinfired u jinqasam, huwa u jikber.

- Fl-Ewropa tinstab biss f'Malta u fin-nofsinar ta' Spanja vicin Kartagena. Fl-Afrika tinstab fil-Marokk u fl-Algerija. F'Malta rari hafna u fis-salvagg, tikber fil-makkja, bhal f'tal-

Maqluba.

- Rari toghla izjed minn 6 metri.
- Eżemplari tagħha nisbuhom fil-gnien ta' Hastings, San Anton, fil-Buskett, il-Mellieha u tal-Maqluba l-Qrendi. Però f'dawn l-aħhar ftit snin qeghdin naraw aktar minnhom, għaliex id-dipartiment ta' l-Agrikultura qiegħed ihawwel hafna f'diversi nhawi.

Iz-zerriegħa

- L-ghargħar hija sigra Konifera għaliex tagħmel il- koni.
- Il-koni rġiel ta' xi 3mm, jkunu fit-truf tal-friegħi. Dawn il-koni rġiel jibdew jiffurmaw għal habta tax-xaħar ta' Settembru/Ottubru. Meta jifthu jarmu d-dukkar ma' kull caqlieqa tar-riħ.
- Is-sigra ta' l-ghargħar tiddakkar permezz tar-riħ. U għaldaqstant tiffurma għadd kbir ta' koni rġiel biex tassigura dan.

Koni Rġiel

- Il-koni nisa jiffurmaw fl-istess zmien u għall-ewwel ikunu

qishom stilel zghar b'erba ponot, li fin-nofs tagghom jkollhom bhal qatra zghira li meta tmissha donnha twahhal xi ftit.

- Din hija il-'pollen drop'. Din isservi biex id-dukkar li jkun qieghed jingar bir-rih, meta jaqa' fuq il-koni nisa jehel maghha u b'hekk jkun jista' jinbeda il-process tal-fertilizzazjoni.

- Il-koni nisa meta jimaturaw jilhqu 15mm u jinqasmu f'erba' flieli.

- Dawn il-koni nisa nistghu nqaghtawhom mis-sigra ghal habta ta' Settembru sa Dicembru, basta jkunu mtleww bizzatej.

- Jekk imbaghad inhalluhom jinxfu f'post ghax-xemx fejn ma tilhaqhom ix-xita, jifthu bil-mod il-mod u jekk ma jifthux ghal kollox, bi ftit pacenzja, tista' tofroq u tofsoq iz-zerriegha.

- Kull zerriegha ghandha qalba b'forma ta' qatra ilma, u mill-gnub taghha johorgu bhal zewg gwienah zghar.

- Dawn il-gwienah jghinu fid-dispersjoni bir-rih (jigfieri, fit-tixrid) taz-zerriegha, il-boghod mis-sigra Omm.

- Issa, mhux kull zerriegha hija vijabli.
- Zerriegha li tkun sewda, ratba u mhux imlahhma, aktarx li ma tkunx tajba.
- Filwaqt li zerriegha li l-qalba taghha tkun mimlija, kuluritha kannella-fuq-il-bexx u meta tinghafas bil-mod bejn zewg swaba tkun iebsa, allura x'aktarx li dik tkun tajba.

- Jekk wiehed jahseb biex jigbor iz-zerriegha kmieni, dejjem kif ghidna jekk il-koni nisa biz-zerriegha jkunu imlew sewwa, iz-zerriegha t-tajba tista' tinzera mall-ewwel.
- Jekk le, jigifieri jekk tingabar fit-tard meta il-kesha tkun dahlet sewwa, allura ahjar li wiehed ihalli ghall-Marzu-April, meta l-ajru jerga jibda jishon xi ffit.

- Iz-zriegh jikkonsisti filli taqbad zerriegha u tghoddosa bil-ponta l-isfel fit-tahlita (50% 'peat' u 50% ramel) f' 'seed tray'.
- Ghaddasa sakemm it-tond ta' fuq jigi livell mall-wicc.
- Izra wahda kull pulzier u meta tlesti aqbad il-bexxiexa u sprejja 'l wicc tat-tahlita.
- Tifqax it-tahlita b'hafna ilma. Ahjar tbexxex kuljum u ffit,

kemm izzom tira medja.

- Jekk kollox ikun sewwa, il-germinazzjoni tibda fi ftit jiem, speċjalment jekk jaghmlu granet xemxin u t-temperatura tkun ta' madwar 75 grad F.

'Seedlings'

- L-gherq primordjali johrog mill-ponta u jinzel 'l isfel. Jibda jimbotta z-zerriegha 'l fuq mill-wicc tat-tahlita; tibda tara z-zokk primordjali jidhar u jikber 'l fuq, sakemm mill-qoxra taz-zerriegha, li issa tkun telghet daqs 2cm mill-wicc, johorgu l-ewwel erba' weraq (il- 'cotyledons').
- F'dan l-istat, tista' tibda tittrasplantja s-'seedlings' f'pots zghar (ta' xi 4 cm.) biex ikompli jikbru. It-tahlita ta' 50% 'peat' u 50% ramel tista' tintuza ghalissa ukoll, pero wara xi gimghatejn, meta nsaqqu nziedu s-sustanzi ma' l-ilma. Dejjem insaqqu minn isfel!
- Meta s-seedlings jikbru u l-gheruq jibdew hergin mit-toqob tal-pots, inkabbru l-pot u nuzaw it-tahlita tal-bonsai (2 'peat', 3 'gravel', 2 ramel u 1 hamrija).
- Aghti sustanzi b'nitroġenu xi ftit gholi u dejjem kabbar il-pot jew aqleb f'kaxxi jew kontenituri baxxi u twal, u ibda t-'training'.
- Jekk f'mohhok jkollok xi stil li trid taghmel, bhal nghidu

ahna, xi foresta, gruppi ta' tnejn, tlieta u aktar, allura meta tittrasplantja s-'seedlings', itfa' f'pot wahda aktar 'seedlings' milli trid, halli jekk tmut xi wahda tibqa' bin-numru li tixtieq.

- Jekk ma jmut xejn, allura tista' tnehi dik li ma tghogbokx.

Sigar zghar

- Meta s-sigar tal-gharghar jkunu zghar ghandhom it-tendenza li jitghawgu minn isfel.
- Dan jista' jintuza bhala vantagg; pero jekk tkun trid xi zokk dritt , bhal fil-kaz ta' l-istil wieqaf dritt (jew wieqaf formali), allura, wiehed irid jahseb mill-ewwel, billi jiddritta z-zokk principali bil-wijer irqiq.
- L-gharghar ukoll meta jkun zghir itellgha frieghi zghar minn isfel taz-zokk, anke jekk dawn ma tantx jikbru jekk inhallu kollox ghaddej.
- Dawn il-frieghi jigu ferm bzonnjuzi jekk f'mohhna nkunu ser infasslu stil ta' zewg zkuk principali (twin trunk), jew bit-tlieta (triple trunk), jew b'hamsa (five trunk). Jigu bzonnjuzi ghaliex jekk ahna naqtghu z-zokk principali tas-sigra sa fejn ikunu dawn il-frieghi, dawn l-istess frieghi imbaghad jarmu u jibdew jikbru u minnhom tkun tista' taghzel iz-zkuk principali li fuqhom ser tfassal l-istil.

Tkabbir

- Fl-ewwel snin, hu hsieb biss iz-zokk principali.
 - Tieg il-forma li tixtieq u halli l-frieghi kollha, halli b'hekk ihaxxnu z-zokk principali. Pero jekk ikun hemm xi fergha li tiehu rghajja f'idejha, naqqasilha mill-weraq halli taghti cans lill-frieghi l-ohra jikbru.
 - Dejjem ftakar imma li trid thalli aktar weraq fil-frieghi t'isfel milli f'ta fuq, ghaliex inkella jkollok frieghi hoxnin fil fuq tas-sigra milli f' isfel taghha u dan 'tabu' fil-bonsaj.
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- Meta z-zokk principali ikun ta' certu hxuna li tixtieq u l-frieghi ikunu kibru u hxinu, ibda ghazel il-frieghi li ser izomm. Ghawwighom fl-istil li trid.
 - Il-frieghi li ma ghandekx bzonn aqtagghom jekk inti cert mit-tajbin.
 - Tista' pero ma taqtagghomx kollha u thalli xi frieghi bhala 'sacrifice branches', jigifieri frieghi li thallihom jikbru hafna sabiex bl-ikel li jiproducu jhaxxnu aktar iz-zokk fil-livell minn fejn johorgu. Meta mbaghad ilestu dmirhom, allura jigu maqtghuha (jigu sagrifikati).
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- Bil-qafas ta' l-istil lest, jigifieri z-zokk principali u l-frieghi mgħawwgin skond l-istil, issa jkun wasal iz-zmien biex tibda tahdem fuq il-weraq.
 - Naqqas it-tul tal-frieghi biex tohloq fis-siluwett tas-sigra, il-famuz trijangolu. Meta taqta' il-frieghi dawn jarmu weraq gdid minn hafna bnadi. Zomm li ghandek bzonn u ibda hu hsieb l-izbir tal-weraq.
 - L-gharghar jarmu minn ghejjun reqdin facilment (mhux bhaz-znuber, li huma wkoll koniferi)
 - Rigward it-'training' bil-wijer, l-gharghar, jifilhu ghalih minghajr ebda konsegwenzi; dejjem jekk inzommu mar-regoli.

- L-Gharghar jzomm il-konicita (it-‘taper’) taz-zokk principali huwa u jikber, u ghalhekk wiehed ma ghandux ghalfejn joqghod ihabbel wisq rasu fuq dan ir-rigward.
 - It-tahlita ghall-Gharghar trid tkun wahda miftuha hafna ghalhekk nuza mat-tliet partijiet ‘gravel’.
 - Ir-‘repotting’ ghandu jsir ghall-habta ta’ Dicembru u Jannar.
 - Bhala stili, nahseb li kull stil jista’ jitfassal fuq dawn is-sigar, pero gruppi u foresta jistghu jaghtu xi diffikultajiet, speċjalment jekk inzommu s-sigar zghar hafna.
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- L-aktar stili li sibt tajbin hafna huma il- ‘formal upright’, il- ‘informal upright’, ‘semi-cascade’, il- ‘prostrate’, u s-sabamiki.
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- Dan ta’ l-ahhar ghaliex l-Gharghar ghandu injam abjad sabih hafna ghad-‘deadwood’ u l-‘jinning’.
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- Bhala mard is-sigra ta’ l-gharghar ma tantx tbat.
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- Gieli fuq il-weraq jittrabbew bhal imhar bojod zghar. Dawn ma jkiddux lis-sigra u facilment jistghu jitnehhew manwalment.
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- Gieli ukoll ikun hemm xi ‘die back’ ta’ xi frieghi, speċjalment jekk ma nizbrux il-weraq kif suppost.
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- Dan li ghadni kif ghid huwa l-esperjenza tieghi fil-kultivazzjoni tal-Gharghar f’dawn l-ahhar snin.

- Nhajjarkom tuzaw din is-sigra ghaliex nahseb li barra li hija medjum tajjeb għall-artist bonsajista fit-tfassil ta' sigar bhala bonsaj, hija wara kollox is-sigra Nazzjonali Maltija u l-ghaqda taghna tirrakomanda li nkabbru sigar Maltin bhala bonsai.
- Nghid ghalija din is-sigra serqitli qalbi u mill-fond ta' qalbi nixtieq li barra li tkun is-sigra Nazzjonali Maltija, tkun ukoll il-bonsaj tipikament Maltija.
- B'hekk l-Gharghar tkun bhala ikona tal-bonsai Maltin.

Xi Kurzitajiet u fatti fuq l-Gharghar

- **Gum Sandarc** Resin incenses are the top of the line in incense burning. With the help of incense charcoals, one can release the intense fragrance of these fine resin granules.
- Sandarac gum resin has a wonderful warm, light, fruity, balsamic, frankincense-like fragrance.
- Sandarac's warm balsamic fragrance works well in the evenings. It relaxes, calms and eases tension. It is helpful in cases of insomnia caused by tension or stress.
- Sandarac is still used today to make liquor and varnish. It is particularly valued for preserving paintings.

- In Morocco it is steeped in folk medicine and is used as a remedy if childbirth becomes difficult. It has calming effects and reduces cramps.
- In Arabian countries it is burned to treat colds.

- The [Arabs](#) use it medicinally as a remedy for [diarrhea](#).
- The gum is said to help against teeth ruining and therefore is used as "toothpaste".
- The sandarac is occasionally used instead of Canada Balsam in the preparation of microscopic glasses.
- The [wood](#), particularly from burls at the base of the trunk, is used for decorative woodwork.
- The fragrant brown wood has long been used by the craftsmen of Essaouira, Morocco to make house-wares and furniture.
- The wood of the root is the most sought after because of its distinctly beautiful pattern of spots (much like leopard skin!) and ripples.

- The wood of this tree has always been considered very valuable and was used for the construction of fine furniture even by the early Greeks and Romans due to its beauty.

- *Tetraclinis articulata* has the following common names: Thyine tree; Sundarac Gum Tree.

- Thyine is derived from the Greek word *thuein*, meaning *to sacrifice*, and it was so called because it was burnt in

sacrifices due to its wonderful fragrance.

- Sandarac got its name from the Assyrian words for "as bright as the moon," which actually refers to a mineral that the resin resembles. Aristotle thought that the resin came from bees.

- **Thyine** One of the items of commerce for the Great Babylon in Revelation 18:12 is also among the last plant products mentioned in the Bible. "*Cargoes of...every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble;*". The identity of the "*citron wood*" (NIV), is translated as "Thyine Wood" in other translations. Thyine wood is reddish/brown in color and has small, dark, "eyes". This wood is hard, heavy, and very aromatic.

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- This tree was purchased from a local nursery in 2004. The tree had a natural inclination for a formal upright however when purchased it had a lack of braches in certain areas. In the past two years the tree was allowed to grow and take shape.
- During summer the tree seemed to be in good health. I took the tree to the local bonsai club where Dr. Grech was

conducting a workshop on styling. The first step was to start clearing the branches and removing the smaller unwanted branches to be able to see the silhouette of the tree.

- A decision was taken as to what the final height of the tree would be in the light of the available branches and the availability of a young flexible branch which would be trained as the apex.
- The tree was cut to the desired length and top branches pruned.
- We decided that the top part of the tree would be jinned and so the process of stripping the bark started by cutting around the bark and stripping the bark slowly to expose the beautiful white wood.
- With the bark stripped the wood will be left to dry and will be treated later with lime sulphate.
- When it came to the lower branches it was difficult to decide which ones would go and which ones would stay. A discussion ensued covering the various options available...
- In the end it was agreed that a decision on the branches to be removed would be taken at a later stage after the necessary wiring was made which would enable us to

better see what the branches would look like when wired down.

The End