

SOME TIPS ON KEEPING YOUR *ARBA MINNIM* IN GOOD CONDITION

Freely adapted from the factsheet compiled as a public service by Stephen Colman
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LULAV

Keep your Lulav in a cool room, or in the Sukkah, away from the central heating so that it doesn't dry out.

ESROG

When not in use, keep your Esrog tightly wrapped in the protective wool.

HADDASSIM and ARAVOS

As soon as you bring them home, place them in a see-through plastic bag in which there is a little water and if possible keep them near the bottom of the fridge. Don't keep them in a dark bag wrapped up in a wet tea-cloth (with or without tinfoil) because mould grows best and fastest in a dark, damp and warm place. That's exactly the environment that encourages mould. Mould does not like light and cool places.

On Erev Yom Tov, cut away approximately one centimeter from the end of the stems and leave the Haddassim and Aravos to soak in a jug with a little water (approximately three centimeters) for an hour or so before tying to the Lulav.

On Yom Tov, either remove the holder with the Haddassim and Aravos (but do not remove the Haddassim and Aravos from the holder itself) and place it in a wetted, see-through plastic bag and place near the bottom of the fridge. Or keep the Lulav together with the Haddassim and Aravos in a long plastic transparent holder, with a few drops of water in the Lulav holder. (Keeping the Lulav with the Haddassim and Aravos submerged in a bath of water all the time involves serious Halachic problems and possibly might render them invalid.)

During the seven days of Yom Tov, should your Haddassim or Aravos appear to be drying out, a light spray of cold water or a little water in the Lulav-holder should revive them.