

Bitter Herb Taste Test

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Source: White Meadow Temple's Seder Experience

What is a Bitter Herb?

When most of us think of bitter herbs, that *maror*, we think of *khreyn* (Yiddish for horseradish). But when you think about it, horseradish is not really bitter. It is pungent or spicy. According to the Talmud, the correct vegetable to use is lettuce, probably a variety of Romaine lettuce. Indeed, this is what many Sephardi Jews use for *maror*. Of course, Romaine lettuce is not really bitter either. According to Dr. Joshua Kulp, "our pleasant tasting lettuce is the result of two thousand years of cultivation to improve its taste. In the time of the Mishnah, it was probably far more bitter."

Bitter Foods Taste Test

Have some of the following foods in bowls for your guests to taste during the Maror section of the Seder (you can also use arugula, broccali rabe, or any other bitter food you can think of).

Which of these foods is the most bitter?

Mark your answer on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being the least bitter, 5 the most bitter)

_____ Unsweetened Chocolate

_____ Swiss Chard

_____ Romaine Lettuce

_____ Turnip

_____ Tonic Water

_____ Horseradish