

## Tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk Application Programming Interface Guide

### Introduction

The tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk API provides a quick simple way to integrate information on tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk within your own site or in a web-based application such as iphone. The response data is in XML format for maximum compatibility and ease of integration into your application.

The API is based on REST (Representational State Transfer Protocol) and currently supports HTTP GET requests only, i.e. it is read only. It is therefore only possible to obtain information from tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk, it is not yet possible to update any fields using the API.

### Access

The service is accessed via the URI <http://www.tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk/tfvrestapi.php>. Currently no pre-login or authentication is required, however this may change in the future when additional functionality is supported (particularly update or delete functions).

The API supports 2 commands:

- search** - to find all items that match the search criteria. The search is the same as the search from within the website. i.e. it searches in the name, botanical name and other names fields. It provides this information plus the url for the main image in the search results.
- tfvitem** - this provides the full information for the specific item (as per the detailed page on tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk).

### XML elements used

The following elements are used in the XML response by the API:

- **<tfvresponse>** The starting element for the data from tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk. All other elements are child elements to this.
- **<info>** This is used to for general information to the request such as an error message.
- **<tfvitem name="Mango">** This indicates the start of a new tfvitem . This element has the name attribute.

The following are child elements for each **<tfvitem>**:

- **<botname>** The botanical name of this item.
- **<othnames>** The other names for this item.
- **<imageurl>** The url for a thumbnail image (72px x 54px) for this item.
- **<desc>** The description for this item.
- **<uses>** The uses text for this item.
- **<health>** The health text for this item.
- **<climate>** The climate text for this item .

- **<soil>** The soil text for this item .
- **<prop>** The propagation text for this item .

### Search example

To search for "bora" simply send the following HTTP request message to the API:

<http://www.tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk/tfvrestapi.php?search=bora>

The API will respond with the following:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1"?>
<tfvresponse>
<tfvitem name="Bora (Jujube)">
<botname>Ziziphus mauritiana, Ziziphus jujuba, Ziziphus zizyphus</botname>
<othname>Bor, Ponsigne, Yuyubo, Ma-tan, Malay apple, Manzana</othname>
<imageurl>http://www.tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk/thumb.php?image=images/boratree.jpg</imageurl>
</tfvitem>
<tfvitem name="Bora (Berry)">
<botname>Ziziphus spinosa</botname>
<othname>Bor, Spiny Jujube, Sheizaf</othname>
<imageurl>http://www.tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk/thumb.php?image=images/borasmall2.jpg</imageurl>
</tfvitem>
</tfvresponse>
```

If nothing is found in the search, e.g.:

<http://www.tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk/tfvrestapi.php?search=12345>

The API will respond with:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1"?>
<tfvresponse>
<info>No results found for 12345</info>
</tfvresponse>
```

The API supports "search=all" to get all tfvitems that can be found currently on tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk. e.g.:

<http://www.tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk/tfvrestapi.php?search=all>

Note: be prepared to receive information on approximately 100 tfvitems when this is invoked.

### Tfvitem example

To obtain the full information for a specific item use the "tfvitem" command. e.g.

[http://www.tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk/tfvrestapi.php?tfvitem=Bora%20\(Berry\)](http://www.tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk/tfvrestapi.php?tfvitem=Bora%20(Berry))

Note: You must conform to URL standards - spaces have to be escaped with %20. Normally the browser does this automatically but you need to ensure it is done in your application. Additionally, the tfvitem name must be an exact match else the API will respond with "item not found".

The API will respond with:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1"?>
<tfvresponse>
<tfvitem name="Bora (Berry)">
<botname>Ziziphus spinosa</botname>
<othname>Bor, Spiny Jujube, Sheizaf</othname>
<imageurl>http://www.tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk/images/borasmall2.jpg</image
url>
<desc>The red bora berry is a draught tolerant bush that grow to 1 metre
height. The leaves are very small, ovoid and about 1 cm long. The bush is
very spiny with very sharp thorns growing all over the plant. The berries
are very small, up to 1 cm diameter, first pale yellow and then turn red
when ripe. The flesh is only 1 to 2 mm thick, brown and fragrant. The seed
is a round and the size of a small pea.</desc>
<uses>Eaten fresh out of hand mainly by children. When dry, the berries
become very hard and difficult to eat.</uses>
<prop>From seed. Scarify before sowing, keep warm and moist. Germination
takes 10 to 15 days.</prop>
<soil>Bora berry will grow in very poor shallow soil.</soil>
<climate>Requires plenty of heat and sun, very draught tolerant.</climate>
<health></health>
</tfvitem>
</tfvresponse>
```

If the tropical item is not valid, e.g.:

<http://www.tropicalfruitandveg.co.uk/tfvrestapi.php?tfvitem=cabbage>

The API will respond with:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1"?>
<tfvresponse>
<info>No results found for cabbage</info>
</tfvresponse>
```

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