

Preparing your garden for *shemita*

During the *shemita* year it is forbidden to sow or plant. So that your garden will bloom throughout the *shemita* year, we recommend planting perennials and biannuals ahead of *shemita*. Ask your local nursery to provide you with flowers that bloom at different times of the year so your garden will look beautiful all year long.

Each plant has different growing needs. Check first that the plant is suitable for your garden!

Plant flowers that bloom during different seasons

Bloom most of the year		Bloom summer to fall		Bloom winter or spring	
Aptenia	אפטניה	Common sneezeweed	הלניון סתוי	African daisy	אוזן דב
Bidens	בינדס (דושן)	Hummel's sunset	קסולה סגלגלה	Canterbury bells (biannual)	פעמונית בינונית
Geranium	גרניום	Lily of the Nile	אגפנטוס	Golden euryops	עינן מסרקני
Impatiens	בשמת הגינה	Wild iris	דיאטס גדול פרחים	Indian cress	כובע נזיר רב שנתי
Pentas	פנטס			Kangaroo paw	כף קנגרו
Petunia hybrida	פטוניה מפלית			Lemmon's marigold	טגטס למון

Give your garden a refreshing look by incorporating varied plants

Plants with varied leaf shapes, colors, and textures					
Alternanthera (many strains)	ביצן	Compact nandia	ננדיה ננסית	Sweet potato	איפומאה
Blood leaf	אחירנטוס	Dichondra	דיכונדרה	Persian shield	אצורבלנית
Coleus	קולאוס	Dusty miller	דרדר מאפיר		

You can also bury bulbs before *shemita*

Bury bulbs in your garden before *shemita*. These bulbs will sprout with the winter rain during the *shemita* year and will flower at different times. Bury the bulbs in a moist but not wet area, and make sure the appropriate conditions are present. Only after they sprout will it be permitted to water and tend to the flowers:

Bulbs that flower mid-winter					
Anemone	כלנית	Crocus	כרכום	Tulip	צבעוני
Buttercup	נורית	Narcissist	נרקיס		
Bulbs that flower in the spring					
Calla lilly	בת קלה	Hyacinth squill	בן חצב	Sword lilies	סייפן
Hippeastrum	היפאסטרום	Tuberose	נץ חלב		

Don't forget the planting deadlines before *shemitah*

(Tip: Don't wait for the last minute!)

15 Av: Bare-rooted fruit trees

29 Av: Fruit trees with roots encased in a clod of earth

15 Elul: Bare-rooted non-fruit trees

26 Elul: Annual decorative plants

29 Elul: Planting with clod of soil – non-fruit trees/ornamental plants/vegetables

Pre-*shemitah* weed prevention

Remove weeds before *shemitah* to reduce the seeds in the soil seed bank.

Prevent weeds from growing during *shemitah* by covering the ground by nylon sheets and spreading black Palrig on top. Alternatively, spread wood clippings on the ground.

Spraying weed herbicides such as Ronstar or Stomp before the rains during *shemitah* will significantly reduce weed growth. Consult with a professional before applying the spray.

It is possible to use more astringent materials in areas not meant for planting.

Advanced preparations to fertilize your garden

Spread out compost and slow-release fertilizers (SRF) prior to *shemitah*. Don't forget to bury the compost and fertilizer in the soil.

This is especially important for planters and flowers on window sills—if no fertilizer is applied in advance, these plants will lack nutrients during the *shemitah* year.

Apply the SRF according to the instructions on the bag. SRF is especially recommended for planters.

The amount of compost needed depends on the soil and the plant in question. In general:

To prepare soil: 5–20 L per m²

Enrich planted areas: 2–5 L per m²

Planters: 5–10% compost, uniform fashion per substrate.

Adjust the exact quantities according to the soil and plant you are applying fertilizer to.

It is important to use high-quality fertilizer and apply it in a uniform fashion to avoid burning roots.