

## Agricultural and gardening activities during the *shemita* year

Action	Home Garden	Heter Mechirah	Otzar Beit Din Subject to the rabbinical court's guidelines
<b>Preparing the ground for planting</b> (marking holes in the ground, setting up trellises, stakes, etc.)	✓	✓	✓
<b>Sowing seeds</b>	✗	☞ Permitted by a non-Jew	✗
<b>Plowing/digging to sow/plant</b>	✗	☞ Permitted by a non-Jew	✗
<b>Planting – vegetables</b>	✗	☞ Permitted by a non-Jew	✗
<b>Planting – trees</b>	✗	✗	✗
<b>Grafting</b>	✗	☞ When necessary (for filler plants) – permitted by a non-Jew in a hothouse	✗
<b>Watering</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Fertilizing</b>	✗ <b>Instead</b> , apply slow-release fertilizer before <i>shemita</i>	✓	✓
<b>Covering trees with netting to prevent pests from entering</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Removing rocks</b>	✗ To prepare for planting/sowing  ✓ To prepare a path – pile the stones next to the dirt work	☞ To prepare for planting/sowing – permitted by a non-Jew  ✓ To prevent damage to agricultural vehicles, etc.	✗ To prepare for planting/sowing  ✓ To prevent damage to agricultural vehicles, etc.
<b>Training onto a trellis</b>	✗ To increase growth  ✓ To prevent damage to the tree	✓	✗ To increase growth  ✓ To prevent damage to trees/ allow passage of agricultural vehicles
<b>Thinning (uprooting) trees</b>	✓ To prevent maladies  ✗ To prevent crowding	✓ To prevent maladies  ✗ To prevent crowding	✓ To prevent maladies  ✗ To prevent crowding
<b>Spraying weeds</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Mowing the lawn mechanically to protect trees</b>	✓ Above ground	✓ Above ground	✓ Above ground
<b>Weeding manually for aesthetic purposes</b> (only when impossible to do so mechanically or by spraying)	✓	✓	✓

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Clipping rootsuckers to protect the tree	✓	✓	✓
Spraying and using pesticides	✓	✓	✓
Pruning grapevines	✗	⊕ Permitted by a non-Jew	⊕ Permitted according to rabbinical court guidelines
Pruning	✗ To encourage growth ✓ Not to encourage growth – with a <i>shinuy</i> (unusual manner)	⊕ Permitted by a non-Jew	✓ If without pruning there will not be a yield or when there is a concern that the tree will collapse
Pruning/clipping not to encourage growth (sanitary purposes, malady prevention, to allow the passage of vehicles)	✓	✓	✓
Pinching back foliage in grapevines (pruning) to allow in sprays and air	✗	✓	✓
Shaping young trees (clipping ends, tying)	✗ Unless irreversible damage will occur to the tree if not done	✓	
Treatments to increase the quantity of the yield	✗	✓	✓
Fruit thinning	✗	✓	✓ Before <i>chanatah</i> (beginning of the fruit's development) or after a third of the fruit's growth
Removing <i>orlah</i> fruit	✗ Instead, remove buds	✗ Instead, remove buds	
Harvesting	✓ In small quantities	✓	✓
Sanitation Removing mummies (small, undeveloped fruit) left on trees and putting them on the ground to reduce pests	✓	✓	✓
Fixing trellises, netting, stakes, etc.	✓ Only when there is damage to the tree/vine and repair cannot wait until the eighth year	✓ Only when there is damage to the tree and repair cannot wait until the eighth year	✓ Only when there is damage to the tree and repair cannot wait until the eighth year