

Gardening activities during the *shemita* year

Action		Action	
Preparing the ground for planting (marking holes in the ground, setting up trellises, stakes, etc.)	✓	Weeding manually for aesthetic purposes (only when impossible to do so mechanically or by spraying)	✓
Sowing seeds	✗	Clipping rootsuckers to protect the tree	✓
Plowing/digging to sow/plant	✗	Spraying and using pesticides	✓
Planting – vegetables	✗	Pruning grapevines	✗
Planting – trees	✗	Pruning	✗ To encourage growth ✓ Not to encourage growth – with a <i>shinuy</i> (unusual manner)
Grafting	✗	Pruning/clipping not to encourage growth (sanitary purposes, malady prevention)	✓
Watering	✓	Pinching back foliage in grapevines (pruning) to allow in sprays and air	✗
Fertilizing	✗ Instead, apply slow-release fertilizer before <i>shemita</i>	Shaping young trees (clipping ends, tying)	✗ Unless irreversible damage occurs to the tree if not done.
Covering trees with netting to prevent pests from entering	✓	Treatments to increase the quantity of the yield	✗
Removing rocks	✗ To prepare for planting/sowing ✓ To prepare a path – pile the stones next to the dirt work	Fruit thinning	✗
Training onto a trellis	✗ To increase growth ✓ To prevent damage to the tree	Removing <i>orlah</i> fruit	✗ Instead, remove buds
Thinning (uprooting) trees	✓ To prevent maladies ✗ To prevent crowding	Harvesting	✓ In small quantities
Spraying weeds	✓	Sanitation Removing mummies (small, undeveloped fruit) left on trees and putting them on the ground to reduce pests	✓
Mowing the lawn mechanically to protect trees	✓ Above ground	Fixing trellises, netting, stakes, etc.	✓ Only when there is damage to the tree/vine and repair cannot wait until the eighth year