

Practical information for Sukkot 5782- Torah VeHa'aretz Institute

Building a *sukkah*

1. One may cut branches that hang over the *sukkah*.
2. It is permissible to remove a roof or shade to put up *sechach*, even if there are planters underneath.
3. Planters sitting on a porch meant for a *sukkah* may be brought inside the home. After *Sukkot* one may take them out to the porch again.

Arba minim

A. Pruning palm trees for *sechach*, *lulavim*, *aravot*, and *hadasim*

1. Non-professionals may prune palm trees for *sechach* and trim *hadasim* and *aravot* for the *arba minim* in a regular way since they do not know how to prune to encourage growth.
2. Professional gardeners may prune in a way that it is obvious that they are doing so in a way that it is obvious that the action is not for encouraging growth, such as not trimming branches too close to the trunk or pruning only on one side of the tree/bush.

B. *Kedushat shevi'it* for *arba minim*

1. **Etrog:** Etrogim sold for 5782 generally developed and were harvested before *shemita* and do not have *kedushat shevi'it*. However, an etrog that developed before *shemita* and was harvested after *Rosh Hashanah* of the *shemita* year has *kedushat shevi'it* owing to doubt. These *etrogim* should be handled as having *kedushat shevi'it*. They may be used in the regular fashion and may not be directly damaged or destroyed. Yet, one should also separate *terumot* and *ma'aserot* without a blessing. These *etrogim* are not ownerless and one may not take an *etrog* without the owner's permission, and owners may harvest them in the usual fashion as they do every year.
2. *Lulavim*, *hadasim*, and *aravot* do not have *kedushat shevi'it*.

C. Placing *hadasim* and *aravot* in water

It is possible to place *hadasim* and *aravot* in a bucket of water inside the home to keep them fresh during *Sukkot*.

D. Hanging etrogim as *sukkah* decorations

Again, *etrogim* harvested after *Rosh Hashanah* 5782 have *kedushat shevi'it* and it is permissible to hang them as a decoration. However, one should first say, "I will not abstain from this produce all eight days of *Sukkot* and *Shemini Atzeret*." This makes it halachically possible to eat them at any time, *yom tov* included.