



Planters

All *shemitah* laws apply to plants in planters growing under the open sky, whether in the yard, on the roof, porch, etc. This is true of all planters, composed of any material, even if placed on a surface that disconnects it from the ground.

Shemitah laws do not apply to planters that meet the two criteria below:

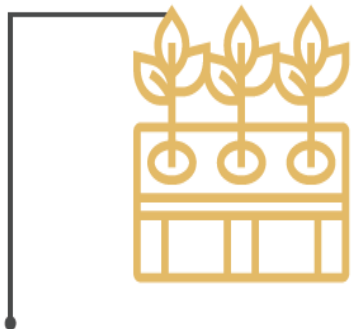
- ✓ The planters are under a roof, indoors, under a sunshade or pergola with more than 50% material. Planters sitting on windowsills are considered indoors as long as the foliage does not spill over from the windowsill and the entire planter is under a ceiling.
- ✓ The planter is disconnected from the ground: planters sitting on the floor on second-story floors or higher; plants on the ground floor only on the floor when sitting on nylon sheets, plastic plates, etc. (the disconnecting surface needs to be larger than the plant's foliage).

If your planters meet the two criteria above, you may water, prune, fertilize and otherwise tend to them as usual. However, **do not plant in them** during *shemitah* without a pressing need.

- ✗ Large planters that exceed 330L are considered connected to the ground. *Shemitah* laws apply to such planters even if they are detached from the ground. It is best to be stringent for planters with a volume exceeding 70L.

Hydroponics

Home hydroponic systems are considered detached from the ground when in a structure with a roof and a surface underneath the plants detach them from the ground (nylon sheets, etc.). In this case, it is possible to tend to them during *shemitah* as usual and even plant new plants. If under the open sky, only minimal care is permitted to prevent plants from dying.



Moving planters

- ✗ Do not move perforated planters from place to place in a garden. If needed, it is permissible to do so only if it was not placed directly on the ground. It is better to drag the planter to a new location rather than lifting it and putting it down. *Lechatchilah*, wrap the planter in cellophane or a plastic bag before moving it.
- ✗ If a plant is growing indoors, avoid taking it outside when exposed to the air. You may take it outside when wrapped in cellophane or in a plastic bag.
- ✓ Indoors you may transfer plants from place to place, even if the purpose is to improve their growing conditions (under a window, more light, less light).



Buying plants

It is forbidden to buy plants that were planted during *shemitah*. Make sure you buy flowers and other plants from nurseries that grow them in a permitted fashion only (detached surfaces, *heter mechirah*). Plants grown primarily for their fragrance have *kedushat shevi'it*. Such plants should be purchased together with an item without *kedushat shevi'it* (*havla'ah*).

Optimally, when transferring plants from the nursery to your home, wrap them in cellophane or a plastic bag from top to bottom. Of course, these plants should not be planted in the garden.

