



Bi'ur

Bi'ur
calendars



Shemita produce is supposed to be eaten and not stored for the coming years. For this reason, when a crop is no longer growing in the field, we are commanded to perform *bi'ur*; that is, remove the produce from our ownership. In practice, most private consumers do not have fresh fruits and vegetables that are subject to *bi'ur* at *bi'ur* times. *Bi'ur* is relevant especially to products with a long shelf-life: wine, oil, pickled olives, jams, liquors, dried fruits, etc. Schedules with *bi'ur* dates for each type of produce are available on our website.

When *bi'ur* time comes



Remove from your home *shemita* produce whose *bi'ur* time has come. In the presence of three people, declare the produce ownerless for the poor and anyone else, and say: “אחינו בית ישראל: כל מי שצריך ליטול יבוא ויטול.” “Brothers of the House of Israel: Anyone who needs to take should come and take.” Afterwards, you may take the produce.



If you cannot remove the produce from your home, bring three people into your home and declare it ownerless in their presence. If you cannot do so in front of three friends, you can take the produce into a public area and leave it there even when others are not present.

After *bi'ur* time is over



If *bi'ur* was not performed intentionally, it is forbidden to eat the food after the *bi'ur* time. If unintentional (you weren't aware it was *bi'ur* time), declare it ownerless right away.



If your friend gives you produce after *bi'ur* time and you aren't sure they declared it ownerless on time, you can perform *bi'ur* immediately and eat it.



The *bi'ur* obligation does not apply to produce that is ownerless or that belongs to *otzar beit din* at *bi'ur* time. For this reason, it is permissible to buy products marked *otzar beit din*, such as wine and oil, even long after *bi'ur* time is over.



The eighth year

Some *shemita* laws accompany us into the year following *shemita*, the eighth year.

Consumerism



Fruits that began growing during the *shemita* year have *kedushat shevi'it* even if harvested after the *shemita* year is over (common for citruses, avocado, olives, and grapes). Be sure to purchase them in the proper manner during the eighth year.



Vegetables harvested after the *shemita* year do not have *kedushat shevi'it*, however the *sefichin* prohibition still applies in the eighth year. For this reason, if vegetables were grown in a forbidden manner and harvested during the *shemita* year they will always be forbidden to eat.

Until the dates noted in the *sefichin* and *kedushat shevi'it* schedules for each vegetable, make sure you buy your vegetables from a place with reliable *kashrut* certification.

Garden care

From *Rosh Hashanah* of the eighth year, all work in the garden is permitted. It is permissible to plant or otherwise work the soil in any way.

The prohibition of engaging in activities on behalf of fruit that began growing during the *shemita* year apply also during the eighth year. It is forbidden to perform actions on behalf of the fruit to enhance their growth. However, it is permissible to engage in activities to protect the fruit.

During the eighth year it is permissible to perform all activities to benefit trees, even if the fruit will also be enhanced as a result.

If fruit has *kedushat shevi'it* it is ownerless, even during the eighth year, and it is forbidden to prevent people from entering orchards or gardens to pick them. This applies until the end of *Cheshvan*. After this time it is permissible to lock gardens and orchards, and perform the *mitzvah* of *hefker* by taking the fruit outside of the gate.

