

Buying Flowers During *Shemita*


We would like to thank agronomists Yechiel Steinmetz and Yair Nishri – Flower Department, Extension Service, Ministry of Agriculture, for the information we used to prepare these tables.

The information in the tables below relates to buying bouquets and flower arrangements, not to buying plants in nurseries.¹ Do not purchase flowers from growers who grow them in a forbidden manner to avoid aiding wrongdoers. Buy them only from vendors who present proof that the flowers grew in a permissible manner, under halachic supervision or *heter mechirah*.

Flowers that may be purchased even without halachic supervision include:

1. Flowers generally planted latest before the beginning of *shemita*; it stands to reason they were planted beforehand.
2. Perennials were not necessarily planted during *shemita* and may have been planted before.

Even in these cases it is best to purchase flowers only from places with supervision, to ensure they are tended to during the *shemita* year in a permissible fashion. Furthermore, the year following *shemita* we need to make sure to buy plants planted in a permissible manner (*heter mechirah*/detached platforms).

Kedushat shevi'it – Fragrant flowers picked during the *shemita* year not grown on detached platforms or employing *heter mechirah* have *kedushat shevi'it*, *shemita* sanctity. Fragrant flowers are marked 




Flowers that require supervision throughout *shemita*²

Flower Name	Hebrew	Name	Hebrew	Name	Hebrew
Aconitum	אקוניטום	Foxtail lilies	ארומרוס	Lupine	תורמוס
Anemone	כלנית	Freesia 	פרזיה	Narcissus	נרקיס
Arum lilies	קאלות לבנה	Globe thistle	קיפודן	Peavine 	טופח
Bishop's weed	אמיתה	Hibiscus	היביסקוס	Society garlic	טולבגיה
Buttercup	נורית	Iris	איריס	Triplet lilies	ברודיאה
Delphinium	דלפיניום	Liatris	ליאטריס	Tuberose (white)	נץ חלב דוביום/לבן








Perennials that do not require supervision during *shemita*³

Flower Name	Hebrew	Name	Hebrew	Name	Hebrew
Anthurium	אנטוריום	Great horsetail	שבטיבט	Phlox 	פלוקס
Acacia	שיטה	Grevilla	גרווילאה	Pittosporum	פיטוספורום
Aralia (Fastia)	ארליה	Gypsophila (Baby's Breath) 	גיבסנית	Protea	פרוטאות
Asparagus	אספרגוס	Heliconia	הליקוניה	Rice flower	פרח האורז
Aspedistra	מגינית	Lady Banks rose 	בנקציה	Roses ⁴	ורדים
Bird of Paradise	ציפור גן עדן	Laurel-leaved snail tree	סהרון	Ruscus	רוסקוס (עצבונית)
Cestrum	צסטורום	Limonium	לימוניום	Leucadendron	לאוקדנדרון
Myrsine	מרסינה	Orchid	סחלב	Safari Sunset	ספארי סנסט
Eucalyptus	אקליפטוס	Pampas grass	פמפס	Solidaster	סולידסטר
Fern	שרך	Peony	אדמונית	Waxflower	פרח שעווה
Gerbera	גרברה	Philodendron	פילודנדרון	Willow (salix)	ערבה סליקס
Golden rod	סולידגו	Philodendron xanadu	קסנדו		





Flowers that require supervision part of *shemita*⁵

Date	Flower Name	Hebrew
1 Kislev	Agerantum	אגרטום
1 Kislev	Amaryllis	אמריליס
14 Cheshvan	Asiatic lily	שושן אסיאתי
14 Kislev	Aster Root	אסטר שורש
1 Tevet	Bell flowers (Campanula)	קמפנולה
14 Cheshvan	Billy buttons (Craspedia)	קרספידיה
1 Kislev	Celosia	צלזיה
1 Kislev	Chamomile (Babonag)	בבונג, מטריקריה 
1 Kislev	Chrysanthemum	חרציות
1 Kislev	Colorful arum lilies	קאלה צבעונית
14 Sivan	Curcuma	קורקומה
1 Kislev	Desert yearning	ניסופית
1 Nissan	Eryngium	ארינגיום
1 Tevet	Eustoma (<i>Lisianthus</i>)	ליזיאנטוס
1 Kislev	Godetia (Clarkia)	גודטיה
14 Cheshvan	Lilies	ליליה/ליליות
14 Cheshvan	Madonna lily	שושן 
1 Kislev	Matthiola	מנטור 
1 Adar I	Milkweed (Asclepias)	אסקלפיאס
1 Nissan	Peruvian lily (Alstroemeria)	אלסטרומריה
1 Tevet	Pink (Dianthus)	ציפורן 
1 Tevet	Pink Aster	אסטר ורדה
1 Kislev	Safflower (Carthamus tinctorius)	קרטמוס (חריע)
14 Cheshvan	Scabious	תגית
1 Kislev	Sea Lavender (<i>Limonium sinuatum</i>)	עדעד
1 Kislev	Snapdragon	לוע הארי
1 Tevet	St. John's Wort (<i>Hypericum</i>)	היפריקום
14 Cheshvan	Stargazer lily	שושן סטאר גזר 
1 Tevet	Sunflower	חמנית
1 Kislev	Sweet William (<i>Dianthus barbatus</i>)	ציפורן ברבטוס
14 Kislev	Sword lilies	סייפן
1 Shevat	Throatwort (<i>Trachelium</i>)	טרכליום
14 Cheshvan	Tweedia	טווידיה
1 Tevet	Veronica	ורוניקה
1 Tevet	Yarrows (<i>Achillea</i>)	אכילאה

Notes

- For more on buying flowers and saplings from nurseries, see Chapter 23 of **The Consumer's Guide to *Shemita***, p. 150.
- Such flowers are annuals that are generally planted in the middle of the year. These flowers were not growing at the beginning of the *shemita* year. When they reach the market, they will definitely have been planted during *shemita*.
- Perennials do not need supervision since they were not necessarily planted during *shemita*, and when there is room for doubt it is possible to be lenient. Nevertheless, there is a real possibility that these flowers **were** planted during *shemita*, so *lechatchilah* one should purchase them in a place with kashrut supervision.
- Fragrant roses should be handled as having *kedushat shevi'it*.
- These flowers are planted at certain dates throughout the year. For this reason, only from the date that new flowers begin to grow is there a concern that the flowers were planted during the *shemita* year.



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