



Guidelines to receive halachic supervision for your nursery, 5783

Stages to receive supervision

1. Submit a request for supervision on the website of Torah VeHa'aretz Institute or by telephone.
2. Coordinate a date for a **free consultation** to check the nature of the nursery and steps needed to put into place the required supervision plus receive a quote.
3. Sign a document that the nursery owner will meet the required conditions and make all of the necessary preparations for this (see below).
4. Check up to ensure that the area is being properly prepared for kashrut supervision (preparing the area, designating the supervised portion, separation between supervised and unsupervised plants).
5. You will receive a certificate of halachic approval from Torah VeHa'aretz Institute.

Conditions to receive supervision

Purchase

1. The nursery owner commits that saplings under supervision will be purchased only from nurseries whose production is approved by Torah VeHa'aretz Institute (the list is constantly updated and will be provided at the consultation. If necessary, it is possible to look into ordering from a specific nursery).
2. The name of the rootstock is marked on the delivery certificate and noted on the tag attached to the tree. To receive approval for the saplings, leave the tags on the saplings until approved by a supervisor (*mashgiach*) from the institute, who will attach a tag from Torah VeHa'aretz Institute.
3. The nursery owner will be in contact with the institute's *mashgiach* and will notify him before purchasing saplings from production nurseries including quantity, type, scion-rootstock combination, expected delivery date, and will coordinate a time to transfer the saplings into grow bags.
4. The transfer of saplings into grow bags will be performed in coordination with the *mashgiach*. The saplings without foliage will require on the spot supervision of the *mashgiach* upon transfer to growing sacks.
5. The transfer of saplings to grow bags will be performed while taking care that the clod of growing strata does not crumble. If the clod crumbles, the sapling will be marked as a tree in its first *orlah* year. Alternatively, it will be transferred to the unsupervised section of the nursery.
6. Wilted trees will be marked by the *mashgiach* as trees in their first year. Alternatively, they will be transferred to the unsupervised section of the nursery.

Marking and separation

1. Nurseries interested in receiving supervision only for some of its plants will designate a separate area for supervised plants, which will be approved by the representative of the institute. In this area, a large sign will be erected, stating the conditions of the supervision (to be provided by Torah VeHa'aretz Institute).



2. Each sapling will be labeled with a temporary label. Unlabeled saplings will be considered unsupervised saplings and will not be in the supervised area.
3. Labels will be attached to the trees by the *mashgiach* only. Labels should not be transferred from tree to tree.

Infrastructure and growth

1. The saplings in the nursery will **always** stand on the ground or on gravel / tuff. There will not be any plastic, concrete, or asphalt separation between the sack and the ground.
2. The grow bags will contain a substrate with suitable properties to stand as a clod of soil and prevent it from crumbling upon transplant to the ground in the future.
3. At the bottom of the growing bag there will be at least one hole with a 2.5 cm diameter.
4. In order to prevent the tree from taking root in the ground beneath it, raise the bag and cut off the root system that penetrated it. This operation will be performed once every 2-4 months, or as required by the *mashgiach*.
5. The *mashgiach* will have a key to the nursery and will have access to it at any hour without giving prior notice.

Sale

1. When selling a sapling, the nursery will provide the customer with a brochure featuring halachic planting instructions published by Torah VeHa'aretz Institute.
2. During the transport of the sapling to the customer's home, handle the sapling with care and place it gently in the truck to prevent the substrate from crumbling. Include the brochure with halachic planting instructions from Torah VeHa'aretz Institute to ensure that it reaches the customer's home.
3. Selling saplings with a supervision label will be possible only to private customers or to other nurseries supervised by Torah VeHa'aretz Institute (upon the presentation of a valid certificate and prior coordination with the institute). In order to sell such saplings to unsupervised nurseries, first remove the label prior to sale.