



Shanah Tovah to One and All

Instructions for the public towards the end of the *shemita* year

Rosh Hashanah (5783) will ushered in the end of the *shemita* year. After this point it will be possible and even a *mitzvah* to renew agricultural activity in accordance with *halachah*.

The guidelines below are abridged and include halachic concepts that not all are necessarily familiar with. It is important to consult with the local rabbi for an explanation and to receive practical guidelines.

Prozbul

The *prozbul* document should be signed this week, before *Rosh Hashanah*. By signing, it will be possible to collect debts even after *shemitat kesafim* (loan remission) goes into effect at the end of the *shemita* year.

Shemitat kesafim and *tzedakah*

We call on the public to perform the *mitzvah* of *shemitat kesafim* as commanded by the Torah. Those involved in facilitating this are Nedivei Eretz, in conjunction with Paamonim and Mekimi. We recommend contacting them as soon as possible. The amount is transferred to them as a loan, which allows you to perform the *mitzvah* of *shemitat kesafim* (*miderabanan*) and the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah* (*mide'oraita*).

Purchasing fruit trees in nurseries after *shemita*

Kilayim concerns

Today, the vast majority of fruit trees (not only citruses) are grafted. Grafts performed not in accordance to *halachah* constitute *kilayim*, a forbidden graft. Such trees should not be planted.

Orlah concerns

An additional concern when purchasing fruit tree saplings is that during a tree's *orlah* years, the fruit is forbidden for consumption or benefit (this prohibition is more severe than most other consumption prohibitions).

Purchase only from nurseries with kashrut certification

Due to the *kilayim* and *orlah* concerns, one should purchase fruit trees from nurseries with halachic supervision, holding an official kashrut certificate (it is insufficient to rely on the nursery owner's assurances).

We turn to the rabbis of Israel throughout the country to raise the public's awareness to the importance of buying fruit trees from supervised nurseries only. Thus, when the *shemita* year ends, the public will know how to plant fruit trees in keeping with *halachah*.

May Hashem accept our prayers willingly:

"Gladness to Your land, joy to Your city, flourishing pride to David, Your servant, and preparation of a lamp for the son of Jesse, Your anointed – speedily, in our days."

(High holiday prayers)

(In alphabetical order)

Rabbi Yaakov Ariel
 Rabbi Uri Cohen
 Rabbi Zephaniah Drori
 Rabbi Chaim Druckman
 Rabbi Eitan Eizemann
 Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu
 Rabbi Yaakov Filber
 Rabbi David Chai HaCohen
 Rabbi Isser Klonsky
 Rabbi Elyakim Levanon
 Rabbi Dov Lior
 Rabbi Zalman Baruch Melamed
 Rabbi Yaakov Shapiro
 Rabbi Chaim Steiner
 Rabbi Aryeh Stern
 Rabbi Mordechai Sternberg
 Director General:
 Rabbi Yosef Artziel