

Guidelines for Separating *Terumot* and *Ma'aserot* from Olive Oil

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Ownership of the Olives

1. The obligation to separate *terumot* and *ma'aserot* (T&M) applies both to (1) trees that grew in Israel that are owned by a Jew and to (2) olives that grew in a non-Jew's orchard for the purpose of oil production, if the *gemar melachah*, completion of the processing (pressing the oil or pickling the olives for eating) is performed by a Jew.
2. Olives from areas that are definitely ownerless, or from municipal areas that have given definite permission to anyone to harvest, are exempt from T&M. In any case of doubt whether the olives are truly ownerless, one should separate T&M without a blessing.

Method of Separation

1. One may not mix olives from ownerless trees with olives from trees that have owners in the olive press. A facility that mixes oil obligated in T&M with oil from ownerless olives—since liquids mix thoroughly (יש בילה בלה)—the mixture requires separating an amount corresponding to all the oil produced there, including the oil from the ownerless olives.
2. After extracting the oil, before separating T&M, touch the oil to make it *tameh*, ritually impure, so that it may be used afterward for Shabbat or Chanukah candles; today, even a *kohen* may not benefit from pure *terumah*.
3. If the *terumah* oil is in sealed bottles, the bottles should be opened and placed close together so that all the bottles are in one area and under one roof. After bringing the bottles together, separate T&M.
4. If intending to actually give the *terumot* to a *kohen*, separate nearly 3% of the total oil to cover both *terumah gedolah* and *terumat ma'aser*. If one will not give the oil to a *kohen*, however, only slightly more than 1% of the total oil should be separated (as with separation of other types of produce).
5. Olive harvest from 5786 requires the separation of *ma'aser ani*, because the olives began to form the previous year (5785), which was a *ma'aser ani* year (the third year in the *shemita* cycle). Therefore, one recites **one blessing**: “to separate *terumot* and *ma'aserot*.”
6. In contrast, the 5787 harvest requires the separation *ma'aser sheni*, since the olives blossomed the previous year (5786), a *ma'aser sheni* year (the fourth year in the *shemita* cycle). Therefore, recite **two blessings**: “to separate *terumot* and *ma'aserot*,” and “to redeem *ma'aser sheni*,” and then the associated text.

After the Separation

1. It is preferable to actually give the *terumah* and *terumat ma'aser* to a *kohen*, so that he and his household will be able to benefit from it for lamp oil. Label the container “Impure *terumah* for lamp oil.”
2. If it is not possible to give them to a *kohen*, pour the *terumot* on the ground.