

## Guidelines for Tithing Lemons: *Shevat 5786-Shevat 5787*

Produce Status	15 <i>Shevat</i> 5786 – 29 <i>Elul</i> 5786	1 <i>Tishrei</i> 5787 to 15 <i>Shevat</i> 5787
Definitely untithed  ( <i>tevel vaday</i> - home garden and the like)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Separate a bit more than 1%.</li> <li>2. <b>Recite the first blessing:</b> להפריש תרומות ומעשרות.</li> <li>3. Recite accompanying text, including the conditional text "Another 9% on the lower part of the produce is <i>ma'aser sheni</i>, and if the year requires <i>ma'aser ani</i>, it is <i>ma'aser ani</i>"</li> <li>4. <b>Skip the blessing for redeeming <i>ma'aser sheni</i></b></li> <li>5. Recite the text for redeeming <i>ma'aser sheni</i>: "What I have designated as <i>ma'aser sheni</i>, plus a quarter of its value, is now redeemed ..."</li> <li>6. Double wrap and dispose the <i>terumot</i> (1%+ you set aside)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Separate a bit more than 1%.</li> <li>2. <b>Recite the first blessing:</b> להפריש תרומות ומעשרות.</li> <li>3. Recite the accompanying text (it's possible to recite the conditional text).</li> <li>4. <b>Recite the blessing for redeeming <i>ma'aser sheni</i>.</b></li> <li>5. Recite the text for redeeming <i>ma'aser sheni</i>: "What I have designated as <i>ma'aser sheni</i>, plus a quarter of its value, is now redeemed ..."</li> <li>6. Double wrap and dispose the <i>terumot</i> (1%+ you set aside)</li> </ol>
Doubt whether tithed  ( <i>safek tevel</i> - one is unsure whether produce was properly tithed)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Separate a bit more than 1%.</li> <li>2. <b>Skip the blessing for separating <i>terumot</i> and <i>ma'aserot</i> (see §2 above).</b></li> <li>3. Recite the accompanying text, including the conditional text (see §3 above).</li> <li>4. <b>Skip the blessing for redeeming <i>ma'aser sheni</i>.</b></li> <li>5. Recite the text for redeeming <i>ma'aser sheni</i>.</li> <li>6. Double wrap and dispose the <i>terumot</i> (1%+ you set aside).</li> </ol>	

On *Tu B'shevat* (15 *Shevat*) 5786, we transitioned from a *ma'aser ani* year to a *ma'aser sheni* year for fruit. For most fruits, the *ma'aser* year is determined by the stage of *chanatah*, fruit set.<sup>1</sup> For *etrogim*, however, the determining stage is harvest, like vegetables.

### Lemons: a regular fruit or an *etrog*?

Several *posekim* question whether lemons should follow harvest as well (ex. Chazon Ish). For this reason, for lemons harvested between *Tu B'shevat* 5786 and 29 *Elul* 5786, there is a

<sup>1</sup> When the fruit is roughly the size of an olive; for olives, when it is one-third its regular size. So if fruits reach this stage after *Tu B'shevat*, they belong to the new *ma'aser* year. Fruit that develops before *Tu B'shevat*, even if harvested afterwards, nevertheless belongs to the previous year (excepting *etrogim*, as noted above).

halachic doubt regarding the *ma'aser* year the lemons belong to. The chart above takes this doubt into consideration.

### **Fruits from different *ma'aser* years on the same tree**

Another issue unique to lemon trees is that there are multiple blooming seasons, with blooming occurring often before and after *Tu B'shevat*. It is very common to have on the same tree lemons that belong to different *ma'aser* years. For this reason, it is best to harvest ripe lemons before *Tu B'shevat* to avoid this issue.

If nevertheless one harvests a batch of lemons where some may have reached *chanatah* before *Tu B'shevat* and others after:

Take two lemons, one big fruit that definitely reached *chanatah* before *Tu B'shevat*, and a small fruit that definitely developed after *Tu B'shevat*, separate the 1% and a bit from **each lemon**, and proceed with the procedure outlined in the chart above.