

Guidelines for Tithing Lemons: Shevat 5786-Shevat 5787

Produce Status	15 Shevat 5786 – 29 Elul 5786	1 Tishrei 5787 to 15 Shevat 5787
Definitely untithed (tevel vaday - home garden and the like)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Separate a bit more than 1%. Recite the first blessing: להפריש תרומות ומעשרות. 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>" Skip the blessing for redeeming <i>ma'aser sheni</i> 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 ..." Double wrap and dispose the <i>terumot</i> (1%+ you set aside) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Separate a bit more than 1%. Recite the first blessing: להפריש תרומות ומעשרות. Recite the accompanying text (it's possible to recite the conditional text). Recite the blessing for redeeming <i>ma'aser sheni</i>. 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 ..." Double wrap and dispose the <i>terumot</i> (1%+ you set aside)
Doubt whether titithed (safek tevel - one is unsure whether produce was properly tithed)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Separate a bit more than 1%. Skip the blessing for separating <i>terumot</i> and <i>ma'aserot</i> (see §2 above). Recite the accompanying text, including the conditional text (see §3 above). Skip the blessing for redeeming <i>ma'aser sheni</i>. Recite the text for redeeming <i>ma'aser sheni</i>. Double wrap and dispose the <i>terumot</i> (1%+ you set aside). 	

On *Tu Bishevat* (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.¹ 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 Bishevat* 5786 and 29 *Elul* 5786, there is a

¹ 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 Bishevat*, they belong to the new *ma'aser* year. Fruit that develops before *Tu Bishevat*, 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 Bishvat*. 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 Bishvat* to avoid this issue.

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

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



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