

# Notes on the Shemittah Shiur given by Rabbi Kornfeld, Shabbos Parshas Haazinu

Written by Rabbi Avrohom Jacobson

Reviewed by Rabbi Kornfeld שליט"א

**Introduction:** We are living in historic times. It is the first time since our *galus* that the majority of Jewish owned agricultural land will be fully keeping Shemittah. We can have our part in Shemittah by observing the halachos that pertain to the produce we eat and buy without compromising. We can also contribute to Keren Hasheviis in order to help support the farmers that are not working on Shemittah. Their # is 1800 300 544

It is of utmost importance to be aware of the fact that ***hechsheirim* change during Shemittah**. One should make sure that the store that he is buying from has a valid Mehadrin Hechsher for the Shemittah year. Also, it is possible that prepared goods (i.e. salads, dips, canned and frozen goods) that had a Mehadrin Hechsher before Shemittah may switch to “Heter Mechirah” on Shemittah. Even some stores with a good hechsher **sell produce that are not under the official hechsher of the store**. It is important to be an educated consumer and pay extra attention this year and learn the various terms that are used to describe the produce.

## **From when are Fruits and Vegetables considered Shemittah Produce?**

**Fruits** are only considered Shemittah produce if they started growing in the Shemittah year. So, practically, there will not be any fruit that have to be treated with *Kedushas sheviis* until around Pesach time. (Esrogim are a possible exception to this rule, since according to Rambam they have the same halachic status as vegetables, see below. **Most esrogim are therefore picked before Shemittah**, but if an esrog is picked after Rosh Hashanah this year, one should be careful to treat it with *Kedushas sheviis*.)

**Vegetables** are considered Shemittah produce if they are **picked** in the Shemittah year. So any vegetables that are picked now already have *Kedushas sheviis*. We will discuss how to treat such vegetables later.

***Sefichim*:** It is forbidden (with a few exceptions) to eat any produce that is planted annually (e.g., wheat, barley or vegetables) that grew during the Shemittah Year. This is called *sefichim* and forbidden by rabbinic law. There is a discussion whether this includes produce from plants that started growing before Shemittah but continued growing during the Shemittah year. The Chazon Ish ruled leniently regarding this.

However, although bananas are considered vegetables vis-à-vis the halachos of Shemittah, they are not considered *sefichin* since they are not planted annually, but rather a new shoot grows afresh each year.

Therefore, bananas that are being sold now, have *Kedushas Sheviis* since they are considered vegetables, but they are permitted to be eaten since they are not *sefichin*.

### Where are we going to get our vegetables during Shemittah?

1. **Shishis (יבול ששית):** Fruit or vegetables grown (and picked, in the case of vegetables) before Shemittah. They do not have any *Kedushas Sheviis*.
2. **Chutz La'aretz (ייבוא חו"ל):** Fruit or vegetables imported from abroad. These too do not have any *Kedushas Sheviis*.
3. **Grown by non-Jews (יבול נכרי) in Israel [abbreviated. "י.י.נ.":** There is a dispute whether such produce has *Kedushas Sheviis*. The general minhag is that they do not have *Kedushas Sheviis*, but the Chazon Ish held that they have *Kedushas Sheviis*. One should only be machmir if it will not cause friction at home.
4. **Aravah (ערבה):** Produce grown in the south of Israel. There is a dispute as to where the exact position of the southern Biblical border of Eretz Yisrael which has ramifications regarding whether Jews are permitted to grow produce there. Based on Rav Elyashiv's ruling, some mehadrin *hechsheirim* (such as Rav Efrati and שארית ישראל) consider the southern border to be in line with the 30 degree latitude; (see red arrow in the map below). The Eidah Chareidis rule leniently and consider the Southern Border to be somewhat higher than this (see blue arrow in the map below). One may rely on the Eidah Chareidis.
5. **Otzar Beis Din (אוצר בית דין):** Produce that is picked and distributed by a Beis Din. Such produce has *Kedushas Sheviis* and must be treated as such. There are bananas being sold that are *Otzar Beis Din*. They should all be marked as such. *Otzar Beis Din* fruits will become more common when Shemittah fruits are out later in the year.
6. **Oilei Mitzrayim (עולי מצרים):** Certain areas in Eretz Yisrael that have more lenient status in respect to Shemittah. The mehadrin *hechsheirim* treat these areas as the rest of Eretz Yisrael since the Chazon Ish and others ruled that practically one cannot be lenient based on "*Oilei Mitzraim*". The Hechsher Otzar Haaratz which is being sold in Best Market permits *Heter Mechirah* in these areas. We do not rely on this.
7. **Heter Mechirah (היתר מכירה):** About 160 years ago, due to the dire situation of people living in Eretz Yisrael, some Poskim allowed the land to be sold to non-Jews under very specific conditions. This is no longer relevant and therefore, any vegetables that are labeled or sold as *Heter Mechirah*, are forbidden to be eaten.

### **What *hechsheirim* may one rely on?**

There are three main *hechsheirim* that are being used in the local stores. **Bedatz Eidah Chaeidis** (בד"ץ עדה חרדית); **She'eiris Yisrael** (שארית ישראל) and **Rav Efrati** (הרב אפרתי). One may rely on any of these three *hechsheirim*.

[To summarize the differences between the various *hechsheirim*:

**Bedatz Eidah Chaeidis:** This *hechsher* follows the opinions that produce grown by non-Jews do not have *Kedushas Sheviis*, and also rely on the lenient opinion regarding the Southern border of Eretz Yisrael. They do not allow vegetables to be grown by Jews in hot houses.

**She'eiris Yisrael and Rav Efrati:** These *hechsheirim* are more stringent regarding the Southern Border. Rav Efrati permits Jewish grown produce in hot houses under specific conditions. They also offer an option to sign a שטר שליחות, see below.]

**Otzar Ha'arezt:** This *hechsher* relies on certain leniencies. Currently, it is not advisable to use this *hechsher*. (Best supermarket uses this *hechsher*.)

**There are two neighborhood sales** where one can purchase produce which will not have *Kedushas Sheviis* all year round (they are supplying goods from *shishis* or from *Chu"l* throughout the year).

- **Mechira LeKehilla** - Weekly pre-order, and pick-up on Tuesday afternoon, from Revivim 7 parking lot.
- **Mishnas Yosef** - Weekly pre-order, and pick-up on Wednesday evening, from Mas'as Mordechai (Dolev) lot.

There are some restrictions in these sales: The quantities of produce are fixed according to them, the pick-up times are very limited and short, you cannot see what you are buying before you buy it, and orders must be with a credit card.

See the form below to register, which is not a commitment to order.

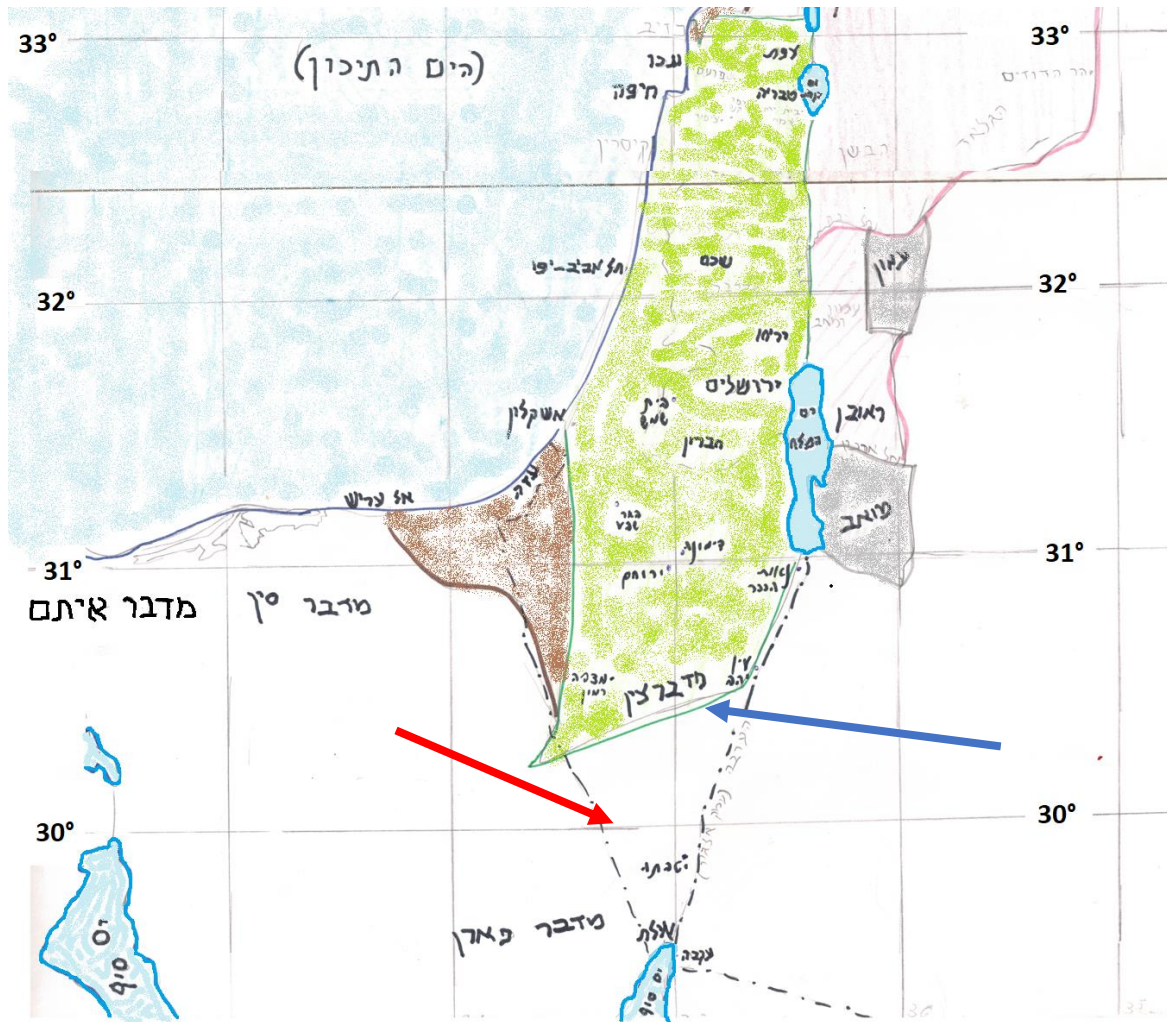
Be aware, that some lettuce and other leafy vegetables currently sold may not be bug free. Please check every package to verify, a) whether it is bug free and b) the *hechsher*. **There are places selling lettuce that have no mehadrin *hechsher*! There are packages that look nearly identical that are from *heter mechirah*, so you really need to check each one.**

**What to do with fruit and vegetables that have *Kedushas Shevi'is*?** It is forbidden to throw out edible food. One should therefore place any edible remnants in a bag until it rots, and only then discard the food. This includes edible peels; peels which are not edible may be thrown out.

***Shtar Shlichus*:** For those that are *machmir* and consider *yevul nochri* to have *Kedushas Shevi'is*, there is an issue regarding buying and selling such produce. There is a solution to this issue, which involves appointing the *hechsher* as your *shaliach* to buy on your behalf the produce directly from the non-Jew. Contact the store keeper for further details.

**Buying from a store that sells fruit or vegetables that have *Kedushas Sheviis*:** It is advisable to pay by check or with a credit card when buying any items (even non-Shemittah produce) from these stores. This is to avoid receiving change which might possibly have *Kedushas Sheviis*.

**Map depicting the Southern Border of Eretz Yisrael**

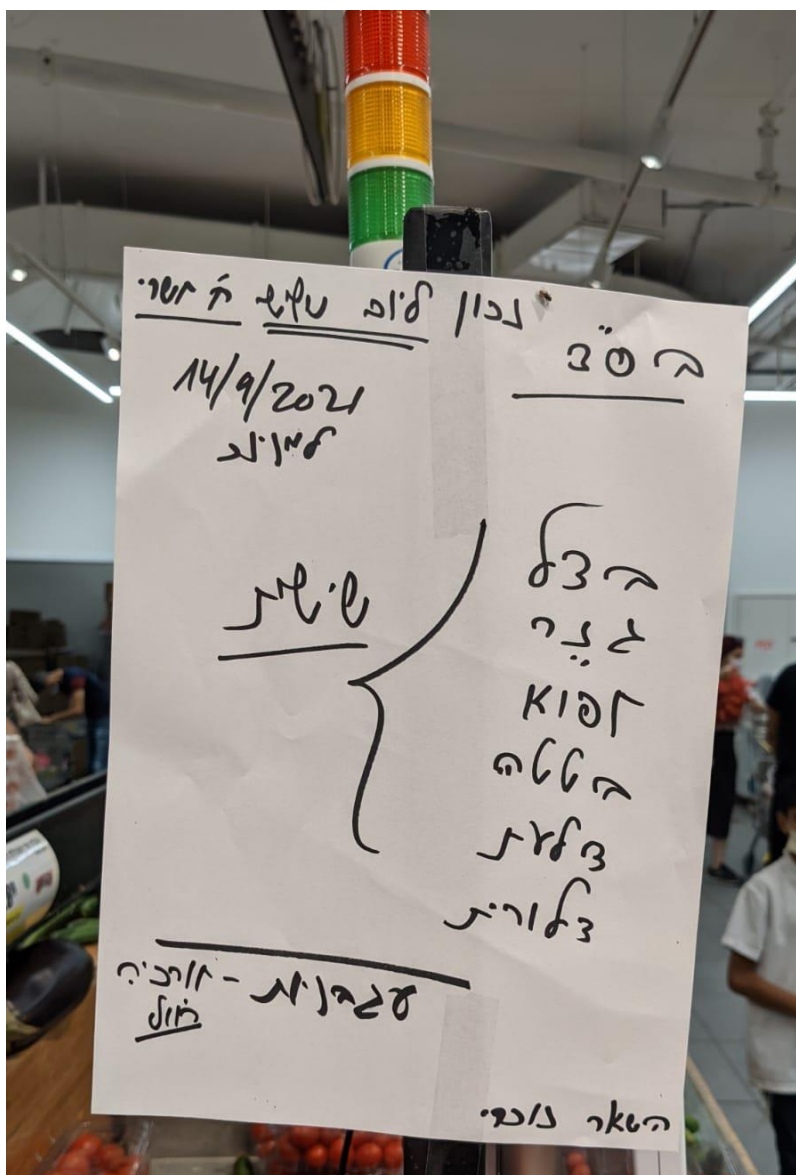


# Example of some Hechsherim





**Sign (Yesh) indicating where different produce is from. If you are machmir for Nochri, for example, this helps you know which those are. Check the date on the sign to ensure it's not out of date.**



# Lettuces & Greens

Each manufacturer may sell many types of Hechsheim. This one is Badatz Eida, grown by Goyim, in Eretz Yisroel (יבול נכרי)



# Special Growing

Be sure to note the way to clean the leaves,  
also printed on each package.





# Lettuce – Another example



# Meaning of י.נ.

Yevul nochri (י.נ.) means grown by non-Jews in Eretz Yisroel. Badatz Eida is lenient to rule that there is no kedusha in that case. Many of their vegetables will be in this classification. Some are machmir to treat these with Kedusha, which has many ramifications.



**You need to look at EVERY bag,  
every time.**

**Even bags right next to each  
other can be different**



Nothing about Shmitta, in  
the same bin as others

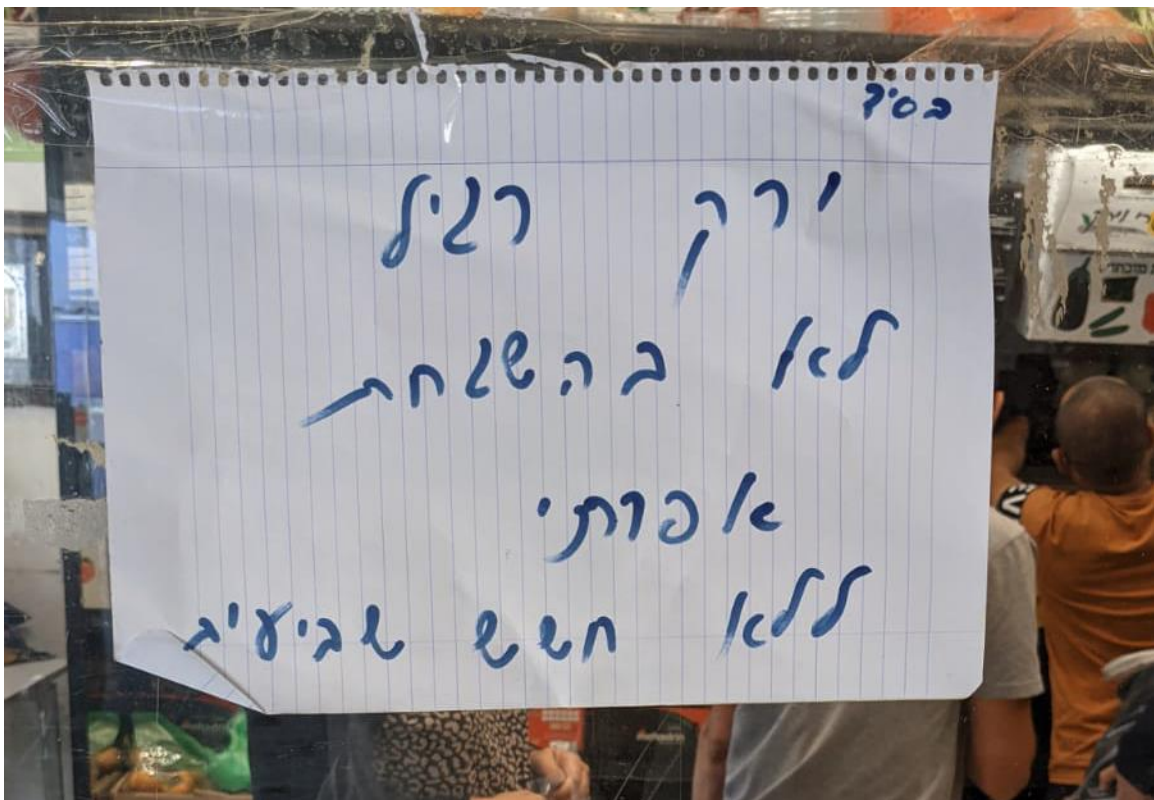


**At a vendor in the Mercaz  
(who does not have a hechsher)  
Heter mechira is not recommended, ever.**



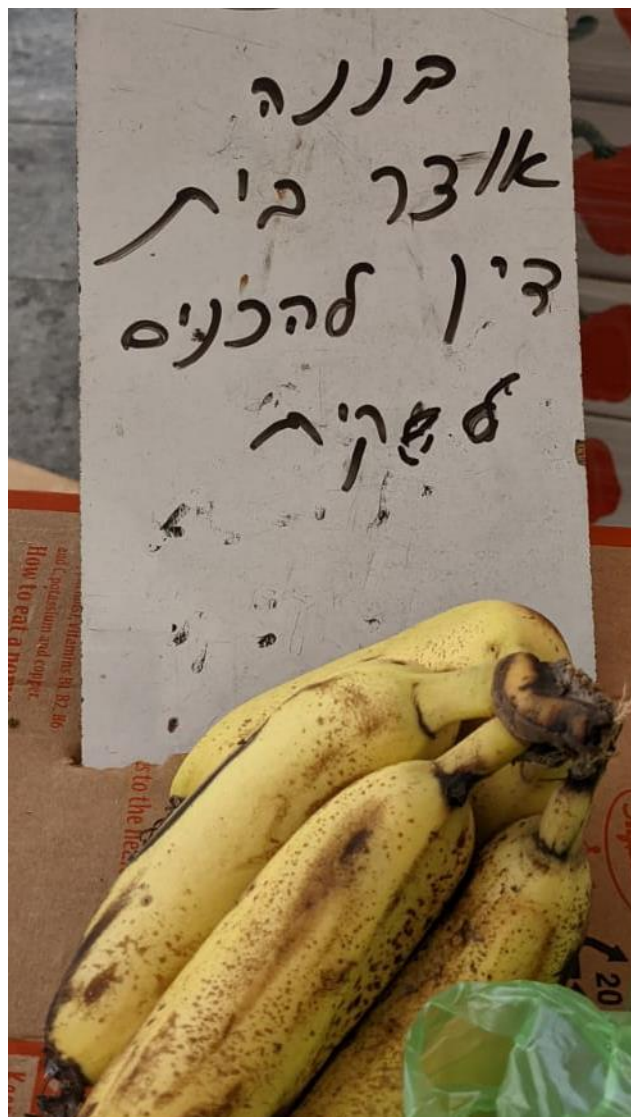


**Outside a Rav Efrati store,  
being sold with all the other  
things outside. Also not bug-free.**



# Bananas from *Otzar* *Beis Din*

These have kedusha, so treat them appropriately. Rav Efrati's hechsher may include some items like this.



## Hamechira LaKehilla:

**Location** – Parking Lot of Revivim 7 (enter from Achziv)

### **To Register:**

Tel – 077.3171.800

Email – [register@sales.org.il](mailto:register@sales.org.il) (Send your name, address and phone number - you will get a form to fill out)

Website – [www.sales.org.il](http://www.sales.org.il)

### **To Order (once registered):**

Tel – 077.3171.800

Email – You will receive an excel spreadsheet. Choose your products and quantity and send to [orders@sales.org.il](mailto:orders@sales.org.il)

Website - [www.sales.org.il](http://www.sales.org.il)

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## Keren Mishnas Yosef

**Location** – Nachal Dolev – Outside Masas Mordechai

### **To Register:**

Tel – 077.316.8080

Email – Fill out the form below and send to [a0773168080@gmail.com](mailto:a0773168080@gmail.com)

Website – [mishnatyosef.org/login#](http://mishnatyosef.org/login#)

Fax- 0777.444.82.33

Nedraim Plus – Choose Mishnas Yosef

Helpline – 08.979-8574

### **To Order (once registered):**

Tel – 077.316.8080

Email – put your registered tel # in the subject line and send to [create-order@mishnatyosef.org](mailto:create-order@mishnatyosef.org)

Website - <https://mishnatyosef.org>

<b>Mishnas Yosef</b>	
<b>טופס הצטרפות</b>	
_____	משפחת:
_____	כתובת:
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מעונינים להצטרף לתחנת:	
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