

Inside the Daf

The Torah says we may not work the land of Israel every seven years (see ויקרא כה, א-ז, Lev. 25:1-7). We call every seventh year a "שְׁמִיטָה" (abandonment) year.

Some types of work may not be done even before the שְׁמִיטָה year begins. If by planting before the שְׁמִיטָה year you will cause a plant to take root during the שְׁמִיטָה itself, the act of planting is forbidden.

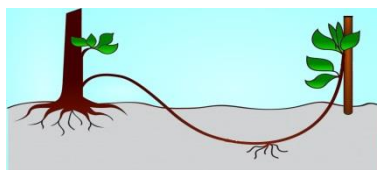
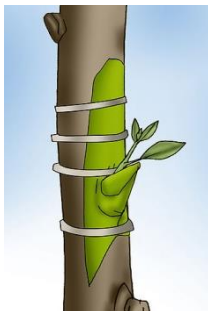
For this reason, one may not plant a tree, bend a vine or graft a branch onto a tree less than thirty days before the שְׁמִיטָה year begins. If someone does any of these activities, the plant must be uprooted.

רבי יהודה says that one may graft until three days before the שְׁמִיטָה year. Since grafts take hold within three days the plant will not "take root" during the שְׁמִיטָה year.

רבי יוסי and רבי שמעון say that since trees take hold within two weeks of being grafted, they may be grafted up until two weeks before the שְׁמִיטָה year begins.

The great Talmudic sage, רב ruled that we follow the opinion of רבי יוסי.

GRAFTING: הִרְכָּבָה This is a process that helps a tree grow. A part of a plant (or tree) is taken off and placed on another plant.



LAYERING: הִבְרָכָה When one replants a branch of a tree by bending it and putting it under the ground. This 'fools' the branch into growing roots underground while it is still connected to its 'parent' plant. After the roots form, the connecting branch can be cut.



PLANTING: נְטִיעָה This includes plating a seed, a branch or uprooting a tree from one place and replanting it in another place.

כלאי הכרם - Mixtures of the Vineyard

The Torah says that one may not plant grains or greens in a vineyard. The mixture of grains or grains in a vineyard is called כלאי הכרם. One may not benefit from כלאי הכרם in any way.

The גמרא quotes a משנה saying that one may not spread a grape vine over a grain field. If someone drapes his grapevine over the standing grain in his friend's field, his friend may no longer benefit from the grain because it becomes כלאי הכרם.

Since the owner of the grapevine caused his friend to lose money by making his crop unfit for use, he must pay his friend the value of the lost crop.

רב יוסי and רבי שמעון say that a person cannot make his friend's crops unusable. If someone's grapevine hangs over his friend's grain field, his friend will still be allowed to use the field.

A מידות Moment

"Just give us *one minute*!" Avi said to the honking car as it waited to get past him. Avi was so annoyed that he always had to interrupt his street hockey game for passing traffic.

"Maybe you boys should find somewhere else to play," said Avi's father, witnessing the scene. "It's not fair to make someone else's property unusable. It's also not fair to make a public street unusable. That's why רבי יוסי and רבי שמעון say that one cannot make another person's field forbidden to him. Do everyone a favor and play somewhere else!"



Did You Know...

If many sages are having a dispute, we follow the majority opinion. The Talmudic sage, שמואל, says that if one of the sages has a stricter opinion than his friends, we follow his strict opinion.

WORD OF THE DAY:

מתניתין
"OUR משה"

Games

TRUE or FALSE

Which of these statements from the Talmud are true and which are false?

1. Planting is forbidden only during the שמיטה year
2. רבי יהודה says that one may graft until three days before the שמיטה year
3. Grafting is done when one replants a branch of a tree by bending it and putting it under the ground
4. כלאי הכרם means "mixtures of the vineyard"
5. According to most, If many sages are having a dispute, we follow the majority opinion.

Review Questions – יבמות דף פ"ג

1. Name two activities that may not be done on a שמיטה year.

2. If one drapes his grapevine over the grain field of his friend, what happens to the field (two opinions)?

3. According to שמואל, whose opinion do we follow in a dispute?
