



# Imported Grape Juice – Part I

I recently noticed that several Israeli grape juices have יבול חו"ל on their labels; I try to buy Israeli produce. Why do these companies use imported grapes?

**Answer:** Most companies that produce grape juice (including Efrat-Teperberg, Carmel, and Barkan), currently sell both imported and Israeli grape juice. Note that this has halachic ramifications.

### Israeli Fruit vs. Imported Fruit From the Seven Species

The *Gemara* in *Berachot* 44a, discussing *me'in shalosh* (*al hamichya/hapeirot/hagefen*), differentiates between produce grown in Israel and produce from abroad. On fruit of the seven species (grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates) grown in Israel, we end with *al ha'aretz ve'al peiroteha*; if these fruits grew abroad, we say *al ha'aretz ve'al hapeirot* (*Shulchan Aruch* 208:10 rules accordingly). If in doubt, say *ve'al hapeirot* (*Mishnah Berurah*). If eating Israeli fruit with imported fruit, say *al peiroteha*, since this ending is more important (Rabbi Kaniyevski). Optimally, inquire whether such fruit is Israeli-grown

or imported (grapes are imported during the winter).

### Israeli Grape Products vs. Imports

As for wine (or grape juice), the *Gemara* does not state the precise text for *al hagefen*. The *Shulchan Aruch* does not differentiate between Israeli wine and wine from abroad, writing that we end with *ve'al peri hagefen*; however, the mainstream ruling is to end with *ve'al peri gafnah* on Israeli wine (*Ben Ish Chai*, *Yabia Omer*, *Ve'zot Haberacha*, *Piskei Teshuvot*). If you don't know the source of the wine, end the blessing *ve'al peri hagefen*. If you drink Israeli wine and imported wine, it seems you should say *ve'al peri gafnah*.

The rabbinate issuing kashrut certification to wine and grape juice require companies to label imports “יבול חו"ל,” so customers will know the correct after-*berachah* to say. If grapes grew in Israel, though, nothing is noted on the label.

What is the current situation and why? Stay tuned for next week. ■

A tale of two bottles: the grape juice on the right is imported, while the grape juice on the left is a product of Israel.

