



TORAH VEHA'ARETZ

INSTITUTE

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en.toraland.org.il



WhatsApp Groups, Deadheading and Weeds

New WhatsApp Group

The English Department at Torah VeHa'aretz Institute has now opened WhatsApp groups for *shemita* updates. These are quiet groups and only updates will be posted by administrators, Rabbi Moshe Bloom, English Department Director at Torah VeHa'aretz Institute, and Shoshan Raiz, the institute's official translator. We welcome you to join and share the link: <https://www.toraland.org.il/linker/wa-english/> Group members can ask administrators their questions and have access to our FAQ database, infographics, and other helpful materials.

Examples of our daily posts:

Deadheading

Q: Is it permissible to deadhead flowers for aesthetic purposes only? My goal is not to promote new growth, just to remove the dead flowers because they look ugly.

A: We've been getting lots of questions

on deadheading; that is, removing dead flowers in the garden. Deadheading is a delicate issue because it directly promotes growth. It is fine to pick flowers (with a *shinuy*) when they are alive and put them in a vase with water on your table. If you want to remove the dead flowers only because they are ugly, and you don't care if new flowers will grow, it will be permissible (with a *shinuy*, in a different manner than usual: cut the stems at a different length, change the instrument/ cut them manually, etc.). Take care to remove the dead flowers (or dead leaves) in an area that is dead. However, if you ALSO want new flowers to grow, it is problematic to deadhead any type of flower.



Weeds

Q: I have a newly planted garden. Weeds from the nursery have really enjoyed the fertilizer and compost. Can I remove them to protect the plant? These are not the kind of weeds you can cut at soil surface as they will just grow back stronger.

A: It is better to cut it above the surface, spray it, or remove it in a different way. If there is no other possibility, and you can't do all the above, AND if you don't remove the weeds your plant will die—you may uproot the weeds during *shemita*. ■