



TORAH VEHA'ARETZ

INSTITUTE

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# Shehechyanu: Otzar Beit Din Nectarines

A few weeks ago I was privileged, together with my family, to eat fresh and juicy nectarines with kedushat shevi'it grown through Otzar Ha'aretz's otzar beit din at moshav Gimzu.

We said a shehechyanu on the new fruit also in honor of the first time that we ate fruit with kedushat shevi'it this shemithah year. *שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה*

Q: I eat the fruit and then the pit is left with lots of bits of fruit attached. Am I allowed to throw the pit away or should I put it in the shemithah bin until the fruit rots?

A: One should try to eat as much of the fruit as possible (like children who lick the bits of chocolate from the wrapper or drops of ice cream from the container). That is, if during regular years you generally leave lots of fruit stuck to the pit, during shemithah you should try to eat as much as you can (you don't have to go crazy pulling out the little strands of fruit from the pit, but eat more to show you care).

After we do this, the small bit still stuck to the pit is insignificant and is secondary (tafel) to the pit itself. However, if you left

a significant amount of pit on the pit, this is considered an important amount and it has kedushah.



*Rabbi Moshe Bloom's family eating Shehechyanu kedushat Shevi'it nectarines*

## Pits

Some posekim maintain that since fruit pits are edible for some animals, they have kedushat shevi'it. However, the mainstream ruling is that pits that are not earmarked to feed animals, and when very few people would give such pits to their livestock, they do not have kedushat shevi'it, so they can be thrown directly into the garbage.

If you have fruit or a pit with lots of fruit with kedushat shevi'it, it is forbidden to place it directly into your composter. First store it in the shemithah bin for several days, and when it is no longer edible you can then put it in the composter. ■