



**TORAH VEHA'ARETZ**

**INSTITUTE**

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# Buying Plants From Nurseries In 5783

## Question

Rosh Hashanah is almost here and we want to know how we can buy plants from nurseries. After the New Year, may we buy bulbs from a bulb nursery, or must we wait a whole another year because they were promulgated during shemita?

What about roses (bare rooted)? Vegetable seeds? Trees? Bushes? Seedlings?

## Answer

Buy such items only from shemita-observant nurseries until:

Annual flowers and seedlings - Middle of Tevet 5783. After this time many of the flowers in the nurseries will be from the 8<sup>th</sup> year plantings, and you allowed to but without asking specifically when this plant was planted.

Perennial flowers - You can be lenient (roses included) and buy them right after

Rosh Hashanah 5783. This is because there is a big chance these flowers were planted on the 6<sup>th</sup> year. There are *Poskim* who are *machmir* even for perennial flowers, and suggest to wait till Middle of Tevet.

Vegetable seeds - we can be lenient and buy them immediately after RH, since they have a long shelf-life and many are imported. Unless you know these seeds are from Israel and were made on the shemita year.

Grass Turf rolls - Buy after Sivan 5783.

## Trees

The rule of thumb is, that If the trunk diameter is 0-5 cm, the tree is less than 1 year old.

So if you come just after shemita and the trunk is greater than 5 cm, you may buy it. If the trunk diameter is less than 5 cm, avoid buying it because it was planted during shemita.

If you come at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> year, you can buy the tree if the trunk diameter is 0-5 cm, but if it is 5-15 cm, avoid buying it because it was probably planted during shemita.

Fruit trees - Buy only from nurseries supervised for kilei ilan (forbidden tree grafts) and supervised for orlah if you want the nursery years to count for orlah years. ■

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