



# TORAH VEHA'ARETZ INSTITUTE

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## Uses for *Shemita* Olive Oil

### More Organic Shemita Oil

After our previous article on olive oil with *kedushat shevi'it*, I am glad to inform you that Tsvi Klejman has sold all of his organic *shemita* oil (to an overwhelming majority of *olim!*). Organic olive growers in Pnei Kedem (Southeastern Gush Etzion, under the Gush Etzion *beit din*) valiantly observed *shemita* this past year and are now producing organic *shemita* olive oil as well. **To order**, contact Michael Lourie: [smlourie1@gmail.com](mailto:smlourie1@gmail.com), 054-730652. They deliver to Beit Shemesh, Efrat, Jerusalem, and Rananana. Lourie is an *oleh* from Melbourne, Australia, and currently a resident of Pnei Kedem (which he helped found). He and his wife Suzy recently opened a visitor's center onsite.

### Permitted Uses For *Shemita* Oil

The Torah states (*Vayikra* 25:6): "And the [produce of] the land's Sabbath is yours to eat." Chazal derive from



Pnei Kedem organic shemita oil

this that any use similar to eating is permitted; that is, when **benefit** and **consumption** occur simultaneously.

### Food

Cooking, frying, baking, and seasoning salad are all permissible. The food it is used with will now have *kedushat shevi'it*.

### Moisturizer

It is permissible to apply oil on hands, face, other body parts, and hair as moisturizer. Apply the oil directly; do not use cotton balls.

### Shabbat candles

It is also permissible to use the oil to light *Shabbat* candles or similar lamp light, since the benefit from the oil and its consumption occur simultaneously.

### Chanukah

There is a **dispute** whether it is permissible to use this holy oil to light *Chanukah* candles. The reason is that we are **not allowed to benefit** from the light, so the oil's benefit and consumption do not occur simultaneously. The same holds true for *yahrzeit* candles or the light at the *amud*.

Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach disagrees, since the oil is being used for a benefit (for the *mitzvah*) and not being wasted.

Bottom line: Even among the rabbis of Torah VeHa'aretz Institute, there is a disagreement on this issue. Those who want to follow Rav Auerbach can certainly rely on this ruling. However, our *psak* is that it is best to refrain from using this oil for *Chanukah* lights. ■