

5779: a Ma'aser Sheni Year

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1. Fruit that began to grow (bloom) between Tu BiShvat of 5778 and Tu BiShvat of 5779: This fruit is still halachically considered the fruit of 5778, and requires a separation of ma'aser ani. In practice, this relates to the fruit that will be harvested from private gardens and farmers in large orchards this winter (such as citrus fruit and avocados). This fruit still requires the separation of ma'aser ani, and the laws of ma'aser sheni do not yet apply.

For such winter fruit sold in the marketplace where there is a doubt whether terumot and ma'aserot were taken, terumot and ma'aserot are taken without a blessing.

2. Fruit that bloomed in private gardens after Tu BiShevat 5779 and will be harvested in the summer of 5779: The laws of ma'aser sheni definitely apply to these fruit. Terumot and ma'aserot and taken with a blessing, and their sanctity is transferred onto a coin with a blessing.

3. Citrus fruit harvested in private gardens or bought in the marketplace following Tu BiShvat 5779: Due to some doubts, for such fruit it is preferable to say at the end of the separation: "...the produce is ma'aser sheni, and if the year requires ma'aser ani, it is ma'aser ani." And then: "What I have designated as ma'aser sheni and a quarter of its value is now redeemed by transferring its sanctity to ... my designated coin."

4. Summer fruit sold in the marketplace: Terumot and ma'aserot are taken without a blessing, and the formula for redeeming ma'aser sheni is said without a blessing.

5. Whenever there is the slightest doubt as to which year the fruit belong to, it is possible to say the formula of the Torah VeHa'aretz Institute in full, which includes transferring the sanctity of ma'aser sheni onto a coin without a blessing.

See Hilchot Ha'aretz pp. 48-50