

✦ Preface

Hashem Yisborach has bestowed upon me the merit to have been a partner in the mitzvah of Shemittah in this generation for many Shemittah cycles. From the year 5747/1986 until today in Shemittah 5768/2007, I have been working together with the Shemittah observant farmers throughout Eretz Yisrael, organized by the “National Center for Shemittah Observant Farmers – Kommemius” and with the “Keren Hashevi’is”.

May Hashem merit me with observing many more Shemittah and Yovel years according to the Torah, as the Rambam writes about the final redemption in the laws of ‘Melachim’ (11:1) “They will observe Shemittos and Yovels according to all its details in the Torah” and the building of our Beis Hamikdash speedily in our days.

The Gemara in Maseches Gittin (12A) states “When a person has benefited himself, he benefits his friend also”. I was mezakeh the rabim in the past when I merited to meet many Shemittah observers and see the verse: “I have ordained my blessing” fulfilled and to understand their many trials.

I collected their stories together in my previous published works: The Kuntrass “Shemittah 5747” which was put together with the help of my friend Rabbi Tzvi Reuven Davidovitz (Published by Machon Yaakov David, named after the Ridvaz ztz”l) and afterwards the sefer “From Shemittah 5742 until Shemittah 5761”, up until the current sefer before you: “The Campaign for Shemittah”.

Mori veRabbi Rabbi Moshe Halberstamm ztz”l, a member of the Bedatz Haeidah Hacharedis in Jerusalem, was especially devoted in his help and support for shemittah observers. This was in the tradition of his great father in law, Rabbi Hillel Shlezinger ztz”l, grandson of the author of the sefer ‘Lev Ha-Ivri’, Rabbi Akiva Yosef Shlezinger ztz”l.



Plants are picked and potted for export

After the flower reaches the appropriate level of growth, it is transferred to the plot of land where the flowers will develop until their final stage. At this stage, he cuts the seedling, removes its leaves and then plants it in the ground.

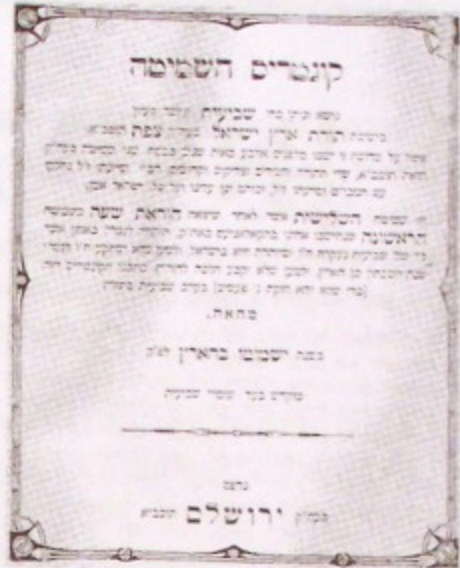
Before planting them in the ground, he places a special nylon on the ground and disinfects the earth by sprinkling gas (like a water sprinkler, only it is gas being sprinkled). This dries up the previous roots and germs, and then he removes the nylon and plants the seedlings in the ground. The flowers blossom within 90 days.

The above flower-growers' question still has to be dealt with. Generally, the time to plant the nursery flowers in the ground is determined by the secular date, which this year fell out in the last two weeks of Elul 2007. If he doesn't plant at this point, he might lose an entire year. If he misses one season, he is dropped by the market and may lose the market entirely. **Nevertheless, he accepts upon himself to observe Shemittah.** As we were leaving, we told him, "In the strength of belief that you demonstrated by accepting upon yourself Shemittah, you will merit the promise of "I will command My blessing."

observers. Now that he was in Eretz Yisrael when the Shemittah year arrived, a fire burned in his heart from the Chilul Hashem of not keeping Shemittah, with all the consequences of the future and especially because of the new permit. He listed all the serious punishments that had happened because they didn't keep Shemittah in the previous years, and set out on a war of survival for Shemittah observance without compromises.

The Ridvaz was particularly aggravated that two Shemittah years had passed since the 'permit' was issued and feared that a *chazakah* of three years for the permit would pass, therefore he published a kuntrass on Shemittah as a protest.

A Photo of the front page of the kuntrass on Shemittah by the Ridvaz



I. RAV NACHUM WEIDENFELD AND HIS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF SHEMITTAH

Rav Nachum Weidenfeld (the brother of the Tshebner Gaon) was asked at a meeting of rabbonim held in 1900 to go on aliya to Eretz Israel to manage the affairs of the Galicianer Kollel. When he made aliya in the month of Tammuz in 1909, he met the Ridvaz who asked him to help Shemittah observers and provide them

The Kuntrass on Shemittah from the Radvaz



יעקב רוד רידיבז