



Sowing and
planting



Plowing



Reaping



Picking



Letting the land lie fallow –
once every seven years the farmers of Israel
allow the land to lie fallow, to "rest," and they
devote their time to spiritual pursuits.

Hefker – "ownerless"
the land's produce during Shmita is
free-for-all. Grain, fruits and vegetables
may be taken without payment





Fallow land –

once every seven years we are commanded to let the land "rest" and thus it improves the earth's quality.

Loan dismissal –

at the culmination of the Shmita year, all debts between Jews, in Israel and abroad, are null and void. This enables people to start a new chapter in their lives, fresh and unburdened. (in modern day, this is no longer a biblically mandated practice, but is encouraged by rabbinical decree)



Leket, shechecha, peah–

(gleanings, forgotten produce, corners)

during the six non-Shmita years, we care for the poor and needy: farmers leave various forms of agricultural produce for others to enjoy, free of charge.



Sabbatical holiness –

the produce of Israel's Shmita year is holy. There are a number of things that must, and must not, be done with it. It is forbidden to sell this produce, and forbidden to treat it disrespectfully, like throwing it in the garbage. This spiritual aspect is called Sabbatical holiness – Kedushat Shevi'it.



Concern for animals –

during the Shmita year, all animals may eat from any of the fields, and it is forbidden to use them in agricultural endeavors such as plowing.



Removing Shmita produce from the home –

this refers to Shmita produce excess which is stored in the home, after the produce's season. One may not store this excess on their private property, and it must be removed and given to anyone, free of cost. As an example: winter is the season for ripening citrus fruits. When winter is over and there are no more oranges on the trees in the groves, any excess oranges you may have in your house must be placed in a location where all can take them freely.

