

Daf Review – Shabbos 85

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Mishnah on 84b

- Notwithstanding the laws of *kilayim* prohibiting one from planting different species of seeds together, one may plant five different types of seeds in a garden patch with dimensions of six *tefachim* by six *tefachim*. A person may do so by planting four different species of seeds each in a single row along the four outer sides of the patch and a single seed of a fifth species in the middle of the patch.
- As explanation to the Mishnah, there is nothing inherently forbidden about planting different species of seeds near each other. However, the Sages prohibited planting seeds near each other in a manner in which the seeds appear intermingled. Seeds that are planted parallel to each other appear intermingled when they are within three *tefachim* of one another because they nourish from the same ground—the roots of each plant extend $1\frac{1}{2}$ *tefachim* towards each other. However, seeds of different species planted perpendicular to one another do not appear intermingled even when they are within three *tefachim* of one another. Therefore, in a garden patch of 6 x 6 *tefachim*, one seed may be planted directly in the middle of the patch such that there is a distance of three *tefachim* between that seed and each of the four outer rows to which it is parallel. Each of the outer rows may end within three *tefachim* of the perpendicular rows of another species as long as the rows do not extend to the corners of the patch and become parallel to rows of another species.

Gemara

- R' Yochanan explains that we derive from the following *passuk* that the Sages were knowledgeable in horticulture to determine that plants within three *tefachim* of one another nourish from the same ground: “*Lo sasig gevul reecha asher gavlu rishonim*” – do not encroach upon the boundary that the early ones established. This teaches that one should not plant two species within the space that the earlier generations determined is nourishing other plants.
- We learn from the names of the early inhabitants that they were experts in knowing what each piece of land was best for growing:
 - “*Chori*” was called by that name because it has the same letters as “*reiach*” (smell) – they would smell the land and determine for which crops the land was most suitable.
 - “*Chivi*” was called by that name because like a snake (*chivya*) they would taste the earth and determine for which crops the land was most suitable.
- The internal area of the garden patch in the Mishnah’s ruling must be 6 x 6 *tefachim* to permit planting five species; the walkway around the patch cannot be included in that measurement.
- Rav explains that the mishnah’s ruling permitting five seeds to be planted in a 6 x 6 *tefachim* patch applies only if the patch stands independently and is not bordered by other garden patches. Rav is concerned that, if the patch is bordered by other patches, the seeds on the outside perimeters of the patch will be planted within three *tefachim* of a different species of seed on the outside perimeters of the bordering patch. Even though it is possible to stagger the perimeter rows of bordering patches in a manner that the seeds are not parallel, Rav is concerned that if we allow one to plant in the staggered manner, it may lead one to plant parallel rows in the two patches within three *tefachim* of another.
- Shmuel argues and holds that one may plant five species in a 6 x 6 *tefachim* patch even if the patch is bordered by other patches, as long as one plants the bordering rows in a staggered manner such that the rows are not parallel to each other.