

A Practical Guide to *Shabbos* – Class #2  
Plowing, Planting, and Picking  
By Rabbi Dovid Bendory

שְׁשֶׁת יָמִים, עָשָׂה יְיָ כֵּן אֹת הָאָרֶץ, לְעֵלְמָם: -- בֵּינִי, וּבֵין בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל הַשְּׁבֻת לְדֹרֹתָם, בְּרִית עוֹלָם. -הַשְּׁבֻת, לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶת-וַשְׁמְרוּ בְנֵי  
הָאָרֶץ, וּבְיוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי, שְׁבֻת וַיִּנְפֹּשׁ-הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת-יְהוָה אֵת

“And the children of Israel shall keep *Shabbos* to make *Shabbos* an ever-lasting covenant for all generations between Me and the children of Israel. It shall be an enduring sign, for in six days *Hashem* made the Heavens and the Earth and on the seventh day He rested.”

-- Exodus 31:16-17 (*Shabbos* morning *Kiddush*)

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Plowing: preparing the earth for planting.

Planting: placing seeds in the ground, covering, watering

Picking: harvesting / cutting off the desired part of the plant

*Av Malacha*: plowing and planting, either for wheat for bread or for plants for dyes; cutting down the grown plants.

Anything that causes or promotes plant growth comes under the *malachos* of plowing and / or planting. Anything that detaches a growth from its natural place of growth will come under picking.

Possible *Toldot* of Plowing, Planting, and Picking

Digging – but only if it in order to plant.

Making sandbags

Smoothing the ground

Walking on wet ground

Footprints

Pushing a stroller on soft ground

Dragging a lawn chair or picnic table

Picking a fruit

Biting a fruit while it is still on the tree

Smelling a fruit

Smelling a flower

Uprooting a vegetable (carrot, radish)

Picking a flower

Watering

Weeding / Uprooting in order to plant

Throwing away seeds

Pruning

Removing stones

Digging in sand

Children playing in dry sand

Children playing in wet sand

Placing beans or potatoes in water

Playing soccer

Playing marbles

Putting salt or ice onto snow

Walking in snow

Shoveling snow

Climbing a tree

Children climbing a tree

Items placed in a tree

Using a tree

Hammocks

Leaning on a tree

What is a tree?

Tree roots

Weeds and grass

Walking through grass

Walking through tall grass

Brushing against bushes

Walking through a wooded area

Dealing with Houseplants

Flower pots and indoor plants

Outdoor plants

Cut flowers and “*tircha yeteira*”

Adding / Changing water in a vase

An overturned vase

How to bring flowers

A guest who brings flowers

A guest who brings a plant

Moving into / out of the sun

Increasing / decreasing sunlight

Window shades and curtains