



Volume 7. Issue 14

## Keep Your Distance

One must keep a distance of six *tefachim* between rows of different vegetables planted in same field (2:10). The *Mishnah* states that if however one wants to plant rows of pumpkins/gourds in a field containing other vegetables, that one must leave a greater distance due to the nature of the gourd's branches and leaves, which are long and can become entangled in the produce alongside it.

The distance that one must leave is debated when discussing a case where one wishes to plant some gourds in a field with rows of onions (3:6). *R' Yishmael* maintains that one must remove 2 rows of onions and plant 1 row of gourds in that space. Since each row generally took up 4 *amot* of space this effectively leaves 2 *amot* on each side of the newly planted seeds<sup>1</sup>. He also requires that two rows of onions be left before another row of gourds can be introduced. This leaves 12 *amot* between one row of newly planted gourd and the next.<sup>2</sup> *R' Akiva* holds that one may plant two rows of pumpkins in the area vacated by the 2 rows of uprooted onions and then leave two rows of onions prior planting another row of gourds, leaving 8 *amot* between the 2 rows of pumpkins. The *Chachamim* agree with aspects of both *R' Yishmael's* and *R' Akiva's* opinions. The *Chachamim* requires a space of 12 *amot* between the 2 rows of newly planted gourds (like *R' Yishmael*), however, they also side with *R' Akiva* and maintain that one does not need to leave a 2 *amot* gap between the onion and pumpkin rows. One must only maintain the usual distance (that of a '*telem*'/ditch) that is required between the gourds and onions.

This *Mishnah* seems puzzling in light of another *Mishnah* learnt earlier (3:4) – which states that one is permitted to plant two rows of *kishuim*, two rows of pumpkins/gourds and two rows of *pol hamitzri* with only the space of a ditch between them. This is because each of the vegetable rows appear as if they were a independent fields, and there is a recognition that there is no *kilayim*. This seems to be contradictory with the *Mishnah* learnt above, regarding distance between onions and gourds.

There are two answers for this question brought in the *Yerushalmi*. One of these maintains that this *Mishnah* requiring only the distance of a ditch between rows is the opinion of *R' Akiva* who, in our *Mishnah*, allows one to plant onions and gourds with the minimum amount of space between the 2 species. The other answer explains that all

*Tannaim* agree in that *Mishnah*, because the gourd, *kishuyim* (cucumbers) and *pol hamitzri* all have long leaves which are distinguishable one from another, so there is no need for the larger distance as is required in the case of the onion and gourd.

Another answer solves the apparent contradiction by stating that they are referring to two separate cases. When uprooting existing produce to introduce another, one must be more stringent than when planting in the first instance. In a field that has not been planted yet, it has not been designated or recognised as belonging to a particular seed, and in that case there is enough of a *heker* between species by leaving only a ditch.

Interestingly, the *Mishnah Rishona* has an alternative explanation to reconcile the contradiction. *R' Akiva* He mentions that the beginning of the *Mishnah* (3:4) aligns with the opinion of *R' Akiva* who holds that one is able to plant 2 rows of gourds next to 2 rows of another plant. However the *seifa* of that same *Mishnah* (3:4) states that if one plants 1 row of *kishuyim*, one row of gourd/pumpkin and one row of *pol hamitzri* (with only a *telem's* distance between each) it is *assur*. According to *Mishnah Rishona*, this is the opinion of *R' Yishmael* and *Chachamim* that require a gap of 12 *amot* between repeating rows. Therefore each *Tanna* believe the *Mishnah* is teaching different points.

The *Rash* in his commentary of the original *Mishnah* states that according to all *Tannaim*, one must remove 2 rows of onions, and then dig up '*borot*' and then plant the gourds. According to this explanation, we can no longer answer the contradiction between the 2 *mishnayot* by stating that the *Mishnah* which permits planting 2 rows of differing vegetables to be in accordance with the opinion of *R' Akiva* (first answer of the *Yerushalmi*). This is because all *Tannaim* (even *R' Akiva*) would hold that when uprooting onions and planting gourds one requires '*borot*' which are *not* required in the earlier *Mishnah* (which requires only a '*telem*' between each row). The *Mishnah Rishona* answers this problem by stating that the *Rash* maintained a difference between planting 2 rows and a whole field. When planting a field (as is done when uprooting the onions) one requires more distance – however the earlier *Mishnah* (which only requires a *telem*) is only referring to planting 2 rows, and thus is not as stringent.

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two *amot* of space before the next row of gourds is planted (ie. This single row has also replaced 2 rows of onions)

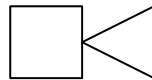
<sup>1</sup> One must also leave a 'ditch' on both sides of each row, to maintain a distance with the row alongside it.

<sup>2</sup> This is due to the fact that there is 2 *amot* of space next to the row of gourds then 2 existing rows of onions (8 *amot*) and another

**Revision Questions**

כלאים א' ד' – ב' ח'

- What pairs of similar things are listed in the next *mishnah* and what is the *kilayim* related concern? (א' ד')
- The next *Mishnah* returns to listing pairs of vegetables – are they considered *kilayim*? (א' ה')
- What pairs of similar things are listed in the next *mishnah* and what is the *kilayim* related concern? (hint: this time it does not refer to plants) (א' ו')
- Explain the debate regarding grafting vegetables and trees. (א' ו')
- Can someone place a vine in a watermelon if his intentions are that the vine draws water from the watermelon? (א' ח')
- What are the four concerns that the *mishnah* addresses when burying bundles of radishes at the base of a vine? (א' ט')
- Explain the debate regarding planting a single wheat seed and a single barley seed together? (א' ט')
- At what ratio of two grains that ordinarily cannot be planted together, does the prohibition of *kilayim* not become an issue? (א' ב')
- Explain the debate regarding what one can do if the above permissible proportion is not met. (א' ב')
- Does the above described measure hold for a mixture of more than two types of grain? (א' ב')
- Does the above described measure hold for a mixture including garden seeds? (א' ב')
- What should someone do if they have initially planted wheat seeds and wants to now grow barley? What if the wheat had already begun to grow? (א' ג')
- How does one go about converting a vineyard to a field producing grain? (א' ד')
- What is different about the way we treat *kanbus* and *lof* with regards to *kilayim*? (א' ה')
- What distance must a farmer leave between strips of different produce to avoid the problem of *kilayim*? (א' ו')
- Is it permissible to have the following field formation of two different types of grain? (א' ז')



- If someone has a wheat field, and his neighbour has a barley field, can he plant a barley field in between their two fields? (א' ז')
- If both he and his neighbour had wheat fields, can he plant a strip of anything in between the two fields? Why? (א' ז')
- Is there a difference if both fields contain the same vegetables? (א' ח')
- What things divide a field such that different seeds can be planted on either side without a concern for *kilayim*? (א' ח')

**Local Shiurim**

**Sunday -Thursday**

After *Ma'ariv*  
Mizrachi Shul  
Melbourne, Australia

**Friday & Shabbat**

10 minutes before *Mincha*  
Beit Ha'Roeh  
Melbourne, Australia

**ONLINE SHIURIM**

*Rabbi Chaim Brown*  
[www.shemayisrael.com/mishna/](http://www.shemayisrael.com/mishna/)

*Rav Meir Pogrow*  
[613.org/mishnah.html](http://613.org/mishnah.html)

*Rabbi E. Kornfeld*  
*Rabbi C. Brown*  
<http://www.dafyomi.co.il/calendars/myomi/myomi-thisweek.htm>

**SHIUR ON KOL HALOSHON**

*Rabbi Moshe Meir Weiss*  
In US dial: 718 906 6400  
Then select: 1 – 2 – 4

**Next Week's Mishnayot...**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	שבת קודש
10 <sup>th</sup> October ב' חשון	11 <sup>th</sup> October ג' חשון	12 <sup>th</sup> October ד' חשון	13 <sup>th</sup> October ה' חשון	14 <sup>th</sup> October ו' חשון	15 <sup>th</sup> October ז' חשון	16 <sup>th</sup> October ח' חשון
Kilayim 2:9-10	Kilayim 2:11-3:1	Kilayim 3:2-3	Kilayim 3:4-5	Kilayim 3:6-7	Kilayim 4:1-2	Kilayim 4:3-4

