

Kilayim (Diverse Kinds)

Ref: *Sefer Zeraim, Hilchot Kilayim, Chapters 1–10*

 | Not to plant diverse seeds¹.

It is forbidden to sow two species of seeds together.

- This only applies in *Eretz Yisrael*
- Punishment for transgression is *malkot*
- Forbidden for a Jew to sow two species even in the field of a Gentile in *Eretz Yisrael*

 | • A Jew is permitted to sow mixed seeds in Diaspora

- Only applies to seeds of edible plants
- Grafting however not allowed in both *Eretz Yisrael* and Diaspora
- The produce that grows from mixed seeds is permitted for consumption. It is only the sowing which is forbidden.

KILAYIM OF VINEYARD

 | Not to sow grains or vegetables in a vineyard.²

Factors

- 5 types of grains liable *Deoraita*
- Grapes take three years before produce appears. Other species mixed in vineyard has to have similar pattern to be liable *Deoraita* (Scriptural law). – Some vegetables have this pattern.
- Punishment if transgression, is *malkot*.

Reminder:

Pack on Punishment for Sefer Zeraim



 | Species dissimilar to grape pattern forbidden *Derabanan*. (I.e. species which do not take 3 years to ripen.)

Definition of a vegetable is that the leaves of the plant grow from its roots. (Each year the 'trunk' i.e. the root, changes.)

- Other types of plant (besides grain and some vegetables) are permitted. Trees also permitted.
- Liable at time of sowing
- Liable in *Eretz Yisrael*


KILAYIM WITH ANIMALS

 | Not to let your cattle cross breed.³ Including animals, beasts and fowl, and even some sea animals.

Factors

- Punishment is *malkot*
- Applies in *Eretz Yisroel* and Diaspora

- To be liable, man has to be directly involved in mating the two animals of different species.
- However it is permitted to benefit from offspring and can be eaten if kosher.
- The prohibition is against mixing different species. One must know which species animal belongs to. [A *koi* resembles a deer (*chayah*) and a goat (*behemah*), and has an unresolved status of being a *behemah* (domesticated animal) or a *chayah* (wild animal) and may therefore not mate with either one.]
- A gentile may not mate mixed species. Therefore, it is forbidden to ask a Gentile to mate mixed species for you because you are causing him to stumble.
- Two similar mixed-bred animals may be made to mate together so long as their mother is of the same kind. (Species category of offspring is determined by the mother.)

 **Reminder:**
Pack on Lineage



 | Not to allow animals of diverse kinds to work together.⁴

Factors

- Punishment if liable is *malkot*.
- Two different species performing labour together if one kosher and the other non-kosher.



- *Derabanan* it is forbidden to combine any 2 species as for mating.
- Man has to lead the animal even if only by voice and even if he sits in a wagon behind the animals.
- A person may plough with an animal.



A consecrated animal which became disqualified (and then redeemed), is like a holy and non-holy animal mixed together. Therefore if one ploughs a regular ox with such an ox, or mates it with a regular cow, he is lashed. This is forbidden *midivrei Kabalah*.

KILAYIM WITH MATERIALS – SHATNEZ



| Not to wear diverse kinds (materials).⁵

This applies particularly to wool (sheep's wool) and linen, but *Derabanan* extends also to silk and *kelech* (grows on rocks in the sea) due to their strong resemblance to linen and wool respectfully.



| Other wools are forbidden *Derabanan*.

Factors

- Punishment if liable is *malkot* (as with other negative commands).
- Forbidden if connected in any manner.



• Permitted if to do a *mitzvah* e.g. *tzitzit Mipi Hashmuah* – *tzitzit* were positioned next to *kilayim* solely to teach us that *kilayim* are permitted in *tzitzit*.

- Measure disallowed is even the smallest thread.
- One can make mixed fabrics for selling i.e. can benefit.
- The main prohibition is not to wear *shatnez*.



• *Derabanan*, forbidden to sit on soft *shatnez* materials for fear that some of the material

| might wrap over his body.

- Towels, cloths and Torah covers forbidden because they warm the hands.
- Permitted to use *shatnez* for the deceased because deceased are not obligated to keep *mitzvot*.
- If one purchases woollen garments from gentiles, one should have them carefully checked at a *shatnez* laboratory.