The Chicago Center
Digest
Mishna Berura
THE DAILY RESOURCE FOR MISHNA BERURA YOMI
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סימן ר"ב סעיף ב'

Overview

Siman 202 Seif 2:

The correct beracha for immature grapes that have not yet reached the size of a white bean is בורא פרי האדמה. Once it reaches the size of a white bean on larger the beracha is בורא פרי העץ. Since we do not know the size of a white bean we always recite the beracha of בורא פרי האדמה until it is very large. When it comes to other trees once the fruit has developed the beracha is בורא פרי העץ as long as it is not bitter or sour to the degree that it is not edible even with difficulty because in such a case no beracha is recited. According to some opinions one does not recite בורא פרי העץ on carob until they have a chain-like appearance and similarly regarding olives until the blossom has grown around them. Before these stages the beracha is בורא פרי האדמה and this opinion is primary.

- The correct beracha for anything that grows from a tree but is not the primary fruit is בורא פרי האדמה. (M.B. 12)
- This course of action should be followed since the beracha of האדמה is b'dieved acceptable. However, one should not eat the quantity that requires a beracha acharona unless it is in a meal since there is a doubt whether one should say בורא נפשות or על העץ. (M.B. 14)
- If the fruit looks ripe its size is not relevant. (M.B. 15)
- This is true even though the fruit is very small. (M.B. 16)
- It is evident from this that if the fruit could be eaten with difficulty one would recite the correct beracha even though it may be sour or bitter but others question this and maintain that if they are sour or bitter the correct beracha is שהכל. (M.B. 18)
- Chaye Adam writes that one who takes small inedible fruit and makes a confection with it the correct beracha would be a שהכל on the confection. (M.B. 19)
- This is true even if they are sweet since this is not the completed fruit. (M.B. 22)

Halacha Highlight

Immature and sour fruit

Shulchan Aruch Siman 202 Seif 2
ושאר כל אילן וכו'
And regarding other trees etc.

Shulchan Aruch discusses grapes and other fruit that are not fully developed and as a result lose their standard beracha. From the wording of Shulchan Aruch there is a fundamental difference between the development of grapes and the development of other fruit. Grapes go through three stages of development. When they first begin to grow they are inedible and one who eats them does not recite any beracha. When they reach the stage of boser – immature grapes—the correct beracha is בורא פרי האדמה. When the grapes have ripened, the correct beracha is בורא פרי העץ. Other fruit, on the other hand, have only two categories. If they are inedible due to a sour or bitter taste one does not recite any beracha and when they are edible one recites בורא פרי העץ. Other fruit do not have a middle stage of development when one would recite בורא פרי האדמה. This point is noted by Mishnah Berurah (ס"ק י"ח) when he observes that Shulchan Aruch's wording implies that if a fruit could be eaten with difficulty one recites בורא פרי העץ even though it may be bitter or sour. He then references other authorities who maintain that if the fruit is bitter or sour and it could be eaten only with difficulty the correct beracha is שהכל rather than בורא פרי העץ.

Even on a fruit that is naturally bitter or sour one would not recite a beracha. Thus, for example, Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach ruled that one who eats lemon recites שהכל rather than בורא פרי העץ. Rav Benzion Abba Shaul also ruled that one who eats lemons should first recite the beracha of שהכל, but added that if the lemon is particularly sour no beracha is recited. If one sweetened the lemon to make it edible one would recite the standard beracha recited on fruit of בורא פרי העץ (שו"ת אור לציון ח"ב פמ"ו תשובה ל"ה).