

OU Guidelines for Separating Terumah and Maaser

In practice, the separation of terumah and maaser is performed- as follows:

1. Place all of the produce in front of you.
2. Remove slightly more than 1% of the produce. For example, if there are 100 oranges, one whole orange and a small part of a second orange are separated.
3. A coin, which is valid currency in the country in which the redemption is performed, is designated for redemption. At the time of this writing, one nickel is sufficient.
4. No blessing is recited because of the possibility (though remote) that terumah and maaser were separated in Israel.
5. Terumah and maaser may not be separated on Shabbos and Yom Tov.
6. It should be noted that while reciting this formula, neither the produce nor the separated portion should be moved, since the formula refers to designated locations.
7. The following text is recited:

— “The amount in the northernmost part of the separated portion which is greater than 1% of the total amount of the produce shall be Terumah Gedolah.

— “The remaining part of the separated portion, plus an additional 9% on the northernmost side of the produce shall be Maaser Rishon.

— “The part of the separated portion that was previously designated Maaser Rishon shall be Terumat Maaser.

— “10% of the remaining produce in the southern side shall be either Maaser Sheni or Maaser Oni, in accordance with the year of the shmittah cycle during which the produce was grown..

— “If the 10% on the southern side is Maaser Sheni, it should be redeemed by transferring its kedusha calculated at its value plus 25%, to the coin.

— “If the produce is neta revai, it should be redeemed by transferring its kedusha calculated at its value plus 25%, to the coin.”

Alternatively, if one has difficulty with the full text or it is not available, this simplified text may be recited:

“All separations of terumah and maaser and redemptions of Maaser Sheni and neta revai shall be effected in accordance with the text of the Chazon Ish.”

8. The separated produce (the part which was more than 1%), and the designated coin are wrapped and discarded.