

B”H

*Eitz Chayim Hee: A Torah Commentary for Environmental Learning and
Action*

Hebrew/English Source Sheet

Torah Portion of Shoftim

“The Torah Prohibits Wasteful Destruction”

The sources are presented in the order they appear in the commentary

דברים כ יט:כ

יט כִּי-תִצּוֹר אֶל-עִיר יָמִים רַבִּים לְהִלָּחֵם עֲלֶיהָ לְתַפְשׂוּהָ, לֹא-תִשְׁחִית אֶת-עֵצָהּ לְנֹדַח עֲלֶיךָ גֵרֹן--כִּי מִמֶּנּוּ תֹאכַל, וְאַתָּה לֹא תִכְרַת: כִּי הָאָדָם עֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה, לֵבָא מִפְּנִיךָ בַּמִּצּוֹר. כִּי רַק עֵץ אֲשֶׁר-תִּדְעַה, כִּי-לֹא-עֵץ מֵאֲכָל הוּא--אֲתוֹ תִשְׁחִית, וְכָרַת; וּבְנִית מִצּוֹר, עַל-הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר-הוּא עֹשֶׂה עִמָּךְ מִלְחָמָה--עַד רִדְתָּהּ.

Deuteronomy 20:19-20

19. When you besiege a city for many days to wage war against it to capture it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them, for you may eat from them, but you shall not cut them down. Is the tree of the field a man, to go into the siege before you?

20. However, a tree you know is not a food tree, you may destroy and cut down, and you shall build bulwarks against the city that makes war with you, until its submission.

All English Translations from Judaica Press, available online at www.chabad.org

Sources not included:

Sefer Ha-hinuch, Parshat Shoftim-negative prohibition of bal tashit

Maimonides, *Sefer Ha-mitzvot*, Positive Commandment 6..?

