

Halachos of Daily Living

Weekly Question: Laws related to Berachos

The Gerald & Karin Feldhamer OU Kosher Halacha Yomis This Column is dedicated in memory of: Rav Chaim Yisroel ben Reb Dov HaLevi Belsky, zt'l Senior OU Kosher Halachic Consultant from 1987-2016

According

to some opinions, the *bracha* for sugar is *Ha'eitz* or *Ha'adama*.

What is the explanation for these views?

The Tur writes that

the *bracha* for

sugar from sugarcane is *Ha'eitz*. The sugarcane is a woody perennial stalk which has the status of a tree. Ordinarily, when juices are extracted from a fruit the *bracha* changes to *Shehakol*.

Nonetheless, in this case it remains *Ha'eitz*, since the main intent of growing the cane

is for these juices. The Tur holds the *bracha* is *Ha'eitz*, not only if one sucks on the sugarcane, but

even if one eats granulated sugar.

The Beur Halacha

explains the rationale of the Baal Halachos Gedolos that the *bracha* on sugar is *Ha'adama*.

Although sugarcane is a tree, it does not produce any actual fruit. Rather, the

juices that are extracted are taken from the cane itself. Since there is no actual fruit, the *bracha* is downgraded to *Ha'adama*.

As noted the

accepted *halacha* is

to follow the opinion of the Rambam and recite *Shehakol* on sugar.

What *bracha* does

one recite on granulated cane sugar?

The Shulchan Aruch

(OC 202:15) follows the opinion of the Rambam that the *bracha* for sugar is *Shehakol*.

However, the Mishna Berura writes that since there are varying opinions in the *Rishonim* as

to the *bracha* for

cane sugar, *bidieved* (after

the fact), if one recited *Ha'eitz* (opinion of the Tur) or *Ha'adama* (opinion of the Baal Halachos Gedolos), one does not repeat the *bracha*.

The accepted ruling

is that on all forms of sugar, whether extracted from a cane or a sugar beet, we recite *Shehakol*.

The Beur Halacha writes that even if one were to suck on the sugarcane itself,

one should recite *Shehakol*.