



An Early Bronze Age Fertilized Agricultural Plot Discovered near Tel Yarmouth, Ramat Bet Shemesh, Israel

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Tel Yarmuth, located in central Israel, is one of the largest urban centers that flourished during the third millennium BCE in the Land of Israel. An agricultural plot was discovered c. 150 m east of the main site. It is a local spot, constructed by an artificial gray sediment/soil and dated by ceramic finds and OSL to the Early Bronze age. A multidisciplinary analysis of the sediments revealed that it is composed of vegetation remnants and a relatively high

amount of micro charcoal. The sediments have a high amount of phosphorus and nitrogen values. All of these are evidence that allow us to conclude that the field was enriched by fertilizing material, and therefore may be one of the

first examples of the existence of an agricultural plot and compost pit in the Southern Levant. This forms an important

basis for the reconstruction of agriculture and land use in ancient times.