

EFFECTS OF ARTIFICIAL RIPENING TECHNIQUES ON THE RIPENING OF DATE CULTIVARS IN FIELD

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ABSTRACT

The experiment on the ripening percentage of date cultivars in the field was conducting during the year 1986-87. Polyethylene covering + fruit, polyethylene covering + acetylene and polyethylene covering were employed. No significant difference in the ripening percentage among different methods was noted. However Polyethylene covering + fruit comparatively enhanced the ripening of fruit. Physical characteristics of the fruits were not significantly affected.

INTRODUCTION

Date Palm (Phoenix dactylifera L.) belongs to the family palmaceae. It is perhaps the oldest fruit plant cultivated on this globe. It is originated in persian gulf i.e. in countries like Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and North Aferica. But most of its development take place in Iraq, which is a leading date growing country in the world.

According to agricultural statistics of Pakistan its total area in 1984-85 is 33.1 thousand hectares with the production of 234.2 thousand tons. It is chiefly grown in the districts of Multan, Muzafar Garh, Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Sukker, Mirpur Khas, Makran, Khairpur and Dera Ismail Khan. Date is the chief source of food to those living in desert and arid zones. It is the main source of food for people where any thing else is not possible to grow. Besides, its pleasant taste and flavour, date fruit is very nutritious and contains almost all important constituents required by human body. It is well known for its dietic and therapeutic qualities. It can be used in a number of by-products such as date syrup, jelly, vinegar, soft drinks and confectionary.