

## EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE OF SIX CULTIVARS OF DATES (PHOENIX DACTY-LEFRA L.) UNDER AGRO CLIMATIC CONDITION OF DERA ISMAIL KHAN.

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### ABSTRACT

Evaluation and performance of six cultivars of date were studied at the Agricultural Research Station, Dera Ismail Khan during the years 1982-83 and 1983-84. The cultivars studied were Azadi, Besra, Dhakki, Khudrewi, Shakri and Zaidi. Observation on trunk growth attained, number of fruits bunches and its quality were recorded and data were subjected to statistical analysis for interpretation of results. Maximum increase in trunk growth was recorded in cultivar 'Azadi'. Comparatively more number of fruit bunches were recorded in cultivar 'Basra' while it was the minimum in case of CV 'Dhakki' quality of fruit was, comparatively, better in cultivar 'Dhakki'.

### INTRODUCTION

Date palm Phoenix Dacty-lefra L. a member of family palmaceae is an important berry fruit. it is commercially grown in the southern district of N.W.F.P. Successful dates culture requires prolonged, dry hot summer, absence of rain and high humidity at the time of ripening. Fortunately these conditions prevail in D.I.Khan and Bannu Districts of N.W.F.P. The total area under date plants are 774 hectares with production of 4644 tons/hectare.

Date plant is an important cash crop in these areas of the southern parts of N.W.F.P. Yield and relevant characteristics of a crop variety that contribute towards yield are an important criterion to be considered and evaluated before a fruit variety is recommended for general cultivation among the farmers. Black 1905