

- ❖ The date palm is one of the most potential fruit crops in dry arid zone.
- ❖ Dates are good source of rapid energy due to their high carbohydrate content (70–80%).
- ❖ Dates are rich in essential and important phytochemicals.
- ❖ Date palm requires prolonged hot dry summer, moderate winters and almost rain free period at fruit ripening (July-Aug).
- ❖ Indian desert meets this requirement.
- ❖ It can tolerate salinity and drought to great extent.
- ❖ Early maturing cultivars like Halawy, Barhee and Khunaizi are suitable for fresh eating while Medjool and Khadrawy for dry dates.



Cultivation practices



- ❖ An ideal sole date palm orchard comprised of 156 trees per ha at 8 m x 8 m.
- ❖ The key input involved drip system of irrigation, dethorning, manual hand pollination, offshoots and leaf removal, fruit thinning and bunch bagging.

Economic estimate

- ❖ The establishment cost of tissue cultured date palm comes to be around Rs. 3.8 lakh ha⁻¹ considering 70 per cent subsidy on planting materials and subsequent years around Rs. 1.5 lakh.
- ❖ Fruiting starts in 3rd years and can yield around 3000 kg.
- ❖ Economic yield starts 5th years onwards with approximately 10-12 t ha⁻¹.
- ❖ Approximately Rs. 4.8 lakh ha⁻¹ may be achieved from fresh fruit.
- ❖ The net profit 5th years onwards may be approximately Rs. 3.5 lakh ha⁻¹ depending upon market.

