

## **EFFECTS OF FRUIT THINNING OF “MADENI” DATES ON FRUIT QUALITY AND YIELD**

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On-farm experiments were conducted in Wadi Hadramout, Republic of Yemen during the seasons 1986/87 and 1990/91 to compare three months of fruit thinning of date palm variety “Madeni” and the subsequent effects on fruit quality of yield the treatments indicates: Control, Cutting back tips of strands to reduce the initial fruit load by 30% at the time of pollination, Cutting back the central strands to reduce the initial fruit load by 30% at the time of bunch bending, An equal combination of 2 and 3 to reduce the initial fruit load by 40%. Results indicated that thinning treatments generally improved the fruit characteristics as evident in increased fruit size, weight and uniformity. The best thinning treatment was found to be cutting back tips of strands to reduce the initial fruit load by 30% at the time pollination giving the best fruit quality, particularly fruit size and significantly different average fruit weight ( $P = 0.05$ ) compared to the control.