

## **LOSS IN FRUITS OF DATE PALM VARIETIES CAUSED BY IMPORTANT INSECTS, MITES AND BIRDS**

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Random samples of fruits of certain date palm varieties were collected during 1998 and 1999 date harvest seasons. The fruits were morphologically and internally examined to estimate losses due to insects (scale insects and larger date moth), mites (date dust mite) and birds. The results showed that losses in date palm fruits were higher in 1998 harvest season (10.7%) than in 1999 season (5.7%). Attacks of birds resulted in higher losses compared to those due to infestation by insects and mites. On the other hand, total losses in date palm fruits were higher in Hilwa, Wannan and Breimi varieties.