

BEHAVIOR STUDIES OF DAJANA AND SAKKOTI DATE PALMS CULTIVARS UNDER ASWAN ENVIRONMENT

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This investigation was carried out on Dajana and Sakkoti date palm cultivars with the objectives of: performance of vegetative growth parameters (including number of yearly produced leaves and leaf morphology), flowering (date of spathe burst, spathe morphology and fruit set (initial, IFS and horticultural, HFS), yield (harvesting date, bunch/palm, bunch weight and estimated yield per palm) and fruit development and characteristics (physical and chemical characteristics such as TSS, sugars, moisture, tannins, fibers, protein and N P K). Results indicated that averages fruit yield per palm were 107.96 and 98.4 kg and 102 and 94.04 kg in Sakkoti and Dajana cultivars during the 2 seasons of study, respectively. The highest IFS and HFS in Dajana were 71 and 40.83 % while they were 69.26 and 35.4 % in Sakkoti cultivar. The highest fruit drop occurred during the period from 60 to 75 days of fruit age. Fruits of both cultivars were characterized with high TSS, total and non-reducing sugars and fibers contents and moderate amounts of reduced sugars and little amounts of acids, tannins and moisture compared to soft type fruits cultivars.