



Date Palms: Site preparation

About Date Palms

Date palms can grow to 20 m in height and can live for over 80 years. Thus, planting date Palms is a long term investment.

Site selection

Choose your site based on:

1. Land cost
2. Availability and quality of irrigation water
3. Soil depth: **preferably** sandy soils **with >2m depth**
4. Soil salinity (Dates have a high tolerance to salinity (tolerating an ECe of 18×10^3)
5. Soil acidity

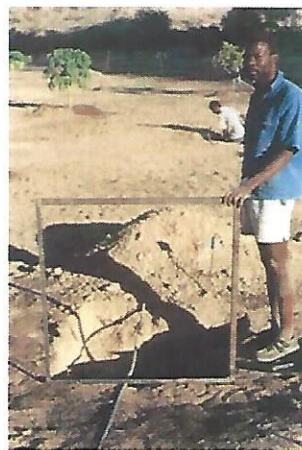


Date plantation (California)
(Photo FAO)

Note: Shallow soils, soil acidity and salinity reduce the efficiency of fertilizer and water usage because of poor root development.

Preparing the site

1. Field preparation	(a) clear the site of bushes, (b) remove large stones and rocks; (c) rip the soil to a depth of 1 m ; and (d) level the field.
2. Planting hole	Make a hole 1 m ³ . Separate the top 1/3 and the bottom 2/3 of the extracted soil.
3. Plant spacing	Trees are often spaced about 10 m x 8 m, but you need to consider 1. sunlight, 2. working space and 3. root development. (e.g., the dwarf variety Khadrawy with a small canopy can be planted at 10 m x 10 m in high humidity conditions)
4. Planting depth	Plant the young tree so that the largest diameter of the bulb of the plant is at the same level as the soil surface to ensure that water does not go over the top of the date plant.
5. Irrigation layout	Prepare irrigation basins 3 m in diameter with a slight downward slope towards the plant.



One meter square hole
digging guide (Photo
FAO)

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Reference: Abdelouahhab Zaid. 2002. Date Palm Cultivation. 156 Rev. 1 FAO.

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