

Propagation of date palm throughout offshoots grown in the nursery

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According to literature, weight of offshoots has been known as an important and effective factor influencing their establishment, indicating that the heavier offshoot the better establishment.

Research works had shown that offshoots heavier than 10 kilogram and of five years old have better establishment. However, for date palm propagation, using very large offshoots is not suggested economically because keeping that on mother plant can reduce the yield of mother plant.

To solve this problem, this research has been conducted to evaluate the effect of offshoots weight on their establishment in three Iranian famous date palm cultivars i.e. Saamaran, Kh azravi and Dayri.

Different analysis methods including chi-squar test, analysis of variance and correlation coefficient have been employed and they all showed that weight of offshoots had no significant effect on their establishment of mean number of secondary offshoots produced on primary offshoots. However, percentage of productive primary offshoots was significantly influenced by weight of offshoots.

The results of this research showed that small offshoots with weight ranging from two to 10 kilogram can get established successfully. So, we do not require to keep them on mother plant for long time.

In addition, during 18 months after planting small primary offshoots could produce new young secondary offshoots on them, creating this idea that we can have nursery for date palm to produce as many as offshoots which is required without keeping them on mother plant.