

The effect of the methods of bunch thinning on the quality and quantity of Kabkab date

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Experiment were conducted on date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) Kabkab at Shabankareh (85 km north of Bushehr) to study the effect of methods on bunch thinning of quality and quantity of Kabkab date. Uniform trees were selected and six bunches were imposed.

The following treatments were applied:

- Reduction of one third of strand-tip.
- Reduction of one third of central strands.
- Reduction of ten percentage of central and tip strands.
- Reduction of one third of central and tip strands.
- Reduction of one third of central strands in chimiri stage.
- Control (no thinning - Without thinning)

The experiment was carried out in two successive years (1997-1998). The design of experiment was a completely randomized block design with four replications. The two year data were pulled together for analysis.

Thinning had significant effects on size and fruit quality in Kabkab date. The year effect was not significant. The year- treatment interaction was not significant except for fruit length.

Reducing fruit number by one third (central and strand- tip) increased fruit weight, length and fruit quality, However, this treatments reduced yield which were significantly different, when compared with control.

Thinning in chimiri stage had not significant effects on fruit quantity and quality when compared with pollination stage.

Although removal of one third of strands had reduced yield, but this treatment increased the desirable fruits of top grades.