

## **Utilization of date wastes for preparation of paste and powder at production centers**

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Date production in Iran is more than 600,000 tons, out of which 25-30% is considered as low grades and waste. These dates are not suitable for human consumption and generally are discarded at production centers or used as animal food. These wastes could be utilized for production of a sweet powdery substance to substitute the cane sugar in the manufacture of confectionery, soft drink, jam, chocolates and other products.

Different parameters responsible for making the product were identified and it was found that low grade dates of Piarum, Bazmanee, Diree, Shekar-Forse, Bahsee, Brym and Borhi, cultivars were suitable for preparation of the powdery substance and low grade and dry dates were good for making date paste.

Optimum heating temperature was 65-70<sup>°C</sup> for duration of 2 hours with addition of 5 percent dextrose.