

STUDY ON FRUIT DROP OF “KHUNEIZI” DATE PALM CULTIVAR

M. Ben Salah

Arid Lands Institute, Nahal-Gabes 6051, Tunisia.

This study was conducted by the Date palm project OADA; at the agricultural research farm of Directorate General of Agricultural Research at Barka in the Sultanate of Oman. To study the phenomenon of fruit drop in date palm CV Khuneizi, the fruit drop was monitored throughout the whole season starting from fruit setting to the harvest. This was being repeated for two seasons. The duration of data collection was 3 days. Also, fruit thinning was applied in the same experiment to look at the effect on fruit drop. The results revealed that fruit drop continued throughout the whole season of fruit development. The maximum fruit drop was recorded at two stages of fruit development; the first being at the “Hababouk” stage, and the second was during the “Khalal” stage. Fruit thinning significantly reduced the fruit drop when compared to the control. The minimum fruit drop was noticed when 1/3 of strands was cut from the inside of the bunch.