

Sponge Method of Pollination in Date Palm



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**Drying
the male
bunches**



Manual extraction of Pollen

Mechanical extraction





strips of sponge (25 cm long, 1.5 cm thick and 3 cm wide) charged with freshly extracted date pollen mixed with wheat flour in the ratio of 1:4 were used to pollinate the female inflorescence by inserting 1-3 pollen charged sponge pieces





the female inflorescences were loosely tied with twine to secure the pollen charged sponge pieces and male flower strands within the female flowers





the sponge method of pollination can serve as a viable alternative to the traditional method of pollination especially where male palms are scarce, and pollen is difficult to obtain.

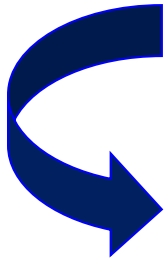


Extracted Pollen could be stored for long time

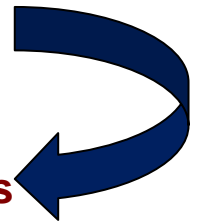
Successful Pollination



Failure of Pollination



Good fruits



Parthenocarpic fruits



