

**DATE PALM CULTIVATION: A NEW BOOK-FAO PLANT
PRODUCTION AND PROTECTION-PAPER NO. 156**

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The publication attempts to provide a basic introduction to date palm propagation and protection and to summarize the body of information that has been acquired concerning date palm cultural techniques. It should serve as a reference volume for research workers and a source of much more detailed information for extension specialists, date growers and anyone interested in the date palm industry. The book has 12 Chapters cover the potential and systematical description, origin, geographical distribution, nutritional value, economic importance, climatic requirements, orchard management, harvesting and pest and diseases of date palm. The present publication updates and complements technical information included in the two earlier FAO books: "Date Handling, Processing and Packaging" (1962) and "Date Production and Protection: (1982). The present publication is based on the proper experience of the authors as well as to the experience gained in all FAO projects implemented during the last three decades and attempts to provide a basic information on date palm production, protection, propagation, processing and marketing. It summarizes the body of information that has been acquired by FAO, not only in date producing countries in Northern Hemisphere but also in Southern Hemisphere and accordingly constitutes the first report on date cultivation in these areas.