

Phoenix dactylifera

Palmnae

Persian Gulf, Mediterranean

Ar: *Temer*

Bl: *Temer*

Eng: *Date palm*

Sh: *Temer*

Tg: *Temri*

Tr: *Temer*

- Ecology:** A well-known and important food tree found in desert areas from Morocco to India, 0-1,500 m. It requires a well-drained fertile soil, high temperatures and low humidity during fruiting. The palm must have a high watertable. It will stand alkaline soil but not waterlogging. Flowering occurs in January-March and fruit in May-September. In Eritrea, it is planted at Beilul, Menkaka and Moloher, for example, below 500 m.
- Uses:** Firewood, posts, utensils, **food** (fruit), fodder, medicine, ornamental, shade, windbreak, thatch.
- Description:** A palm with a slender trunk reaching 20-30 m, the **trunk covered with the remains of leaf bases**. Many suckers or offshoots are produced around the trunk. LEAVES: 30-50 crowded leaves, each to **3 m grey-green, the leaflets sharply pointed**; the lowest leaves are thorny and removed by cultivators. FLOWERS: Male and female trees, a ratio of 1 male to 40-50 female trees is required for fruiting, but the pollen may not always be ready at the best time for pollination. FRUIT: Large hanging bunches of dates, needing support. **Ripe dates 5 x 2 cm, yellow to golden-brown**, with one grooved seed, the "stone".
- Propagation:** Suckers (offshoots) are preferable as male or female plants can be chosen; seedlings.
- Seed:**
- treatment:** Not necessary.
 - storage:** Seed stores well for long periods.
- Management:** Hand pollination is recommended for good date production; remove suckers.
- Remarks:** A potential food and cash crop for selected sites in dry areas. Needs irrigation until established. Economic yields can be obtained after 6-7 years (around 45 kg per tree). Improved varieties exist and should be tested.

