

Indigenous

Ar: *Wakhale*

Eng: *Wild date palm*

Tg: *Aguseana*

Ecology: A palm usually growing in dense clumps beside swamps and rivers. Found throughout tropical Africa, it grows in the humid lowland woodlands, highland forests and on open rocky hillsides. In Eritrea, it grows in the green belt of the eastern escarpment, e.g. around Sabur, Dankur and Adi-roso, 700-2,000 m.

Uses: **Ornamental**, soil conservation, fibres (leaves, leaf bases), roofing (leaves), basketry, mats (leaves), dye, **ceremonial use in churches at Easter time.**

Description: The mature palm trunk may reach 10 m, slender and **often bent over** ("reclinata"), about 25 cm in diameter, covered in very rough leaf scars. **LEAVES:** To 2.7 m long, growing out from a fibrous leaf sheath, the crown of about 25 leaves arching over, leaflets **narrow, folded, bright shiny green, to 30 cm**, stiff and pointed. **FLOWERS:** Male and female on different trees. **FRUIT: Yellow-brown, about 2 cm, edible.**

Propagation: Seedlings, suckers.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 900-5,000.

treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Seed stores well.

Management:

Remarks: Strong fibres from the leaves are used all over Africa for making baskets, mats, etc.

