Growing dates in the Maldives – Welcome!

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1. Ensure that you have selected the correct date for planting. Dates should be planted on a date between 10 and 12.

2. Prepare the soil by digging a hole that is large enough for the date seed to be planted. The hole should be at least 10 cm deep.

3. Plant the date seed in the hole. Make sure that the seed is planted with the root facing down and the shoot facing up.

4. Cover the seed with soil and water it thoroughly.

5. Water the soil regularly to ensure that the seed receives adequate water. Watering should be done twice a day, morning and evening.

6. Keep the area around the seed clean and free from weeds.

7. Once the seed has sprouted, you can begin to harvest the fruit. Dates should be harvested when the fruit is ripe and the color has changed to a deep orange or brown.

By following these steps, you can successfully grow dates in your garden. Happy gardening!
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Parthenocarpy

Parthenocarpy is a term used to describe the phenomenon where dates develop into fruits without the need for fertilization. This occurs when the fruit develops from a flower that has not been pollinated. In the case of dates, this is due to the presence of chlorophyll in the fruit, which allows the fruit to develop into a mature, edible product.

In the Maldives, dates are a significant crop, and parthenocarpy is a key factor in their production. The process of parthenocarpy is complex and involves a number of factors, including the presence of chlorophyll and the absence of pollination. The exact mechanisms responsible for parthenocarpy in dates are not fully understood, but researchers are continuing to study this phenomenon in order to improve the yield and quality of date production in the Maldives and other regions where dates are grown.
HI Dr. Hassan,

I have seen a date tree in Maldives which bears dates but it doesn't have any taste of sweetness like imported dates does. what could be the
problem. And I have many times heard from elders the same story.

hassan.hameed@hotmail.com  August 3, 2016 at 11:58 am - Reply

Dear Nabbe,
Thank you for your comment. I am not an expert in this area. However, I have read that date trees grown from seeds will not be very good. Wikipedia say, “The date palm is dioecious, having separate male and female plants. They can be easily grown from seed, but only 50% of seedlings will be female and hence fruit bearing, and dates from seedling plants are often smaller and of poorer quality. Most commercial plantations thus use cuttings of heavily cropping cultivars. Plants grown from cuttings will fruit 2–3 years earlier than seedling plants.” If you have been able to get dates without a male tree nearby, it means the fruiting is due to another mode: parthenocarpy “(literally meaning virgin fruit) is the natural or artificially induced production of fruit without fertilization of ovules. The fruit is therefore seedless.”

Are there seeds in the date? Are the seeds viable? If not you need to use pollen from a male tree.
Just what I think. No expert.

Ahmed  January 17, 2017 at 12:36 pm - Reply

Great one. I don’t spend time in reading long articles nor interested in planting, however I now feel I should use some I got from this. That too is far less to thank for your valuable time in delivering such an article. Thank you and I hope to see more like these. Cheers.

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