

Iraqi Commercial Date specifications

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Introduction

Until now Iraq faces many problems in exporting dates because some countries tries to change the specification of dates from time to time, and because Iraq doesn't have a fixed specification for its commercial dates such as Tunisia, Algeria and U.S.A so we suggest to have an Iraqi specification for some of it commercial varieties such as Khadrawi, Hilawi, Sair and Zahdi which makes about 85-90% from total commercial varieties exported and so we look these points in concern when we made this specification:

1. Dates exported should be safe and doesn't affect human health.
2. The important problem faces people now is to have enough food and all is working to end this problem or reduce its effect, but still this problem enlarge day after day in some countries and starving problem increases in many places of the world.
3. Here we must mention the increase of population in the world in mathematical equation (2,4,16...) while the food increase in a numeral equation (1,2,3,.....) and also the natural disasters such as floods, pests, fires, Duste.g. which causes food decrease. So the people in the world will soon face starving problem which is hard to solve at that time. So there is a need to make dates enter in food security because its good food for human because it contains sugar, protein, minerals and vitamins.
4. It's proved that dead insects doesn't affect human health because its animal protein expect the
5. This specification made after studying the French, Tunisian, Algerian and American specifications and took in mind the conditions and troubles' in Iraq. So this specification is very suitable for the Iraqi commercial dates.
6. Here we should remind you that Iraq produces about 650 thousand tons of Dates and the receiving, Formation, and storing these dates takes about three months so the dead insects at the end of this period become 10% so must take this point in mind when making Iraqi commercial Dates specification.
7. The hard conditions faced Iraq in these last years of wars caused infection on Dates of different insects and curing this infection will take

many years, so we must put this point in mind when putting a specification of Iraqi Dates.

For these reasons there should be an elasticity given to the Iraqi Dates.

Specification

A. The main characters for Dates prepared for export are:

1- Dates should be fully matured, with soft cover with shiny presence. Without any decays of mould, insects or infections caused by the insects or the weather.

2- Free of living insects.

3- Moisture content not more than (20-26)%

B. Dates prepared for export divided as

I. Excellent dates Ex+Va

1. The same shape and colour
2. Size not less than 3, 5 cm.
3. Weigh not less than 6, 5 g.
4. The percentage of dates of other characters not more than 5% in weight.
5. The percentage of Dates doesn't have the characters in (1,2,3) not more than 5% in weight
6. Dead insects 8%.

II. First class Dates (Standard)

1. Dates have the same shape and colour.
2. Size not less than 3 cm.
3. Weigh not less than 6 g.
4. The percentage of Dates of other characters not more than 8% in weight.
5. The percentage of Dates doesn't have the characters in (1, 2, 3) not more than 8%.
6. Dead insects not more than 10%.

III. Second class Dates (Merchant)

1. Dates have same shape and colour as possible.
2. Weigh not less than 4 g.
3. The percentage of dates of other characters not more than 10%.
4. The percentage of Dates doesn't have the characters in (1,2,3) not more than 10%.
5. Dead insects not more than 12%.

IV. Third class Dates (ordinary)

1. Dates matured, clean, separated from it the in matured Dates and damaged dates.
2. Dry Dates which has physical changes on the tree and then fell down.
3. Weigh not less than 3 g.
4. Don't have more than 15% in weigh dates with different shapes or immature.
5. Free of living insects.
6. Dead insects not more than 14%.

Halawi Dates

Its soft dates and its selected variety over the world specially in U.S.A and Europe. Packed in boxes and carton. Widely grown in shat Al-Aarab.

Type of Analysis	Soft Halawi	Commercial Halawi
Date shape	Shining	Shining
Dirt	--	--
Weight of Date	6.8g	6.8-7.4g
Moisture	20.9%	11.2-13.3%
Seed	13.3%	13.8%
Crude Fibre	7.8	8.0-10.4
Invert Sugars	54.2	42.6-52.2
Total Sugar	59.0	50.0-54.0

Sair Dates

Its soft dates and very known verity, grown wildly in shat Al-Arab. Exported to Europe and U.S.A in box or in wood boxes to India and other eastern countries

This verity called in shat Al-Arab (Ash Hran) and in the middle of Iraq (Usta Omran)

Type of Analysis	Soft Sair	Commercial Sair
Date shape	Shining	Shining
Dirt	--	--
Weight of Date	8.8g	4.5+ 7.8g
Moisture	28.5%	12.1-13.0%
Seed	7.6%	12.2%
Crude Fibre	7.1	7.6-8.3
Invert Sugars	42.5	57.0-59.6
Total Sugar	48.5	59.2-60.0

Zahdi Dates

Its semidry dates and its very famous type comes in the third place in shat Al-Arab while in other places of Iraq it come in the First place. Because it can bear at different weather and different soil. It's exported in boxes, bags, wooden boxes.

Type of Analysis	Soft Zahdi	Commercial Zahdi
Date shape	Shining	Shining
Dirt	--	--
Weight of Date	10.8 g	8.8 g
Moisture	28.5%	11%
Seed	9.1%	11%
Crude Fibre	13.6	8.4
Invert Sugars	41.5	49.8
Total Sugar	50.5	59.5

V. Industrial Dates

Dates which changed its colour and texture because of the weather or infection or long storage.

Example – Dusty Khadrawi

Analysis	%
Moisture	9
Seed	14.1
Crude Fibre	8.4
Invert Sugars	40.9
Total Sugar	52.5

1. Sugars not less than 50% of the dates weight
2. Moisture content not more than 25%
3. Free of living insects or moulds.
4. Dead insects not more than 30%.

Dates Analysis Results

Khadrawi Dates

Its soft dates, good for exporting in boxes or carton, high in price same as Hilawi, Comes after Hilawi widely grown in the south of Iraq (Shat Al-Arab) but in the rest parts of Iraq its grown wider than Halawi.

Type of Analysis	Fresh Khadrawi	Commercial Khadrawi
Date shape	Shining	Shining
Dirt's	--	--
Weight of Date	10.5 g	5.6 -8.0 g
Moisture	21.6%	10.4 -13.2%
Seed	13.1%	12%
Crude Fibre	5.6%	8.3 -8.7%
Invert Sugars	45.4	53.2 -75.5
Total Sugar	52.5	63.8 -46.0