

SPECIES	Phoenix dactylifera
COMMON NAME	Date Palm
ORIGIN	It probably originated from lands around Iraq.
DESIGN USE	Feature palm, median planting



HEIGHT
21–23 m

SPREAD
The full span of the crown ranges from 6–10 m

HABIT
Growing singly or forming a clump with several stems from a single root system.

FORM
The leaves are 4–6 metres (13–20 ft) long, with spines on the petiole, and pinnate, with about 150 leaflets; the leaflets are 30 cm (12 in) long and 2 cm (0.79 in) wide.



FRUIT
The fruit is known as a date. The fruit's English name (through Old French), as well as the Latin species name dactylifera, both come from the Greek word for "finger", dáktulos, because of the fruit's elongated shape. Dates are oval-cylindrical, 3–7 cm long, and 2–3 cm (0.79–1.2 in) diameter, and when ripe, range from bright red to bright yellow in colour, depending on variety.

VARIATIONS
A date palm cultivar, known as Judean date palm is renowned for its long-lived orthodox seed, which successfully sprouted after accidental storage for 2000 years. This particular seed is presently reputed to be the oldest viable seed but the upper survival time limit of properly stored seeds remains unknown. Parthenocarpic cultivars are available but the seedless fruit is smaller and of lower quality

HORTICULTURE
The date palm is dioecious, having separate male and female plants. They can be easily grown from seed, but only 50 percent 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.



REFERENCES
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Date_palm