

General Topics

GT 1

THE EXPERIENCE OF DEVELOPING THE ARAB SCIENTISTS WEB SITE TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE ARAB WORLD.

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Information technology offers challenges and new horizons in capturing and retrieving information on plant protection. Electronic communications through the Internet is considered a revolutionary step in this direction. To make use of these technologies in the Arab countries, a web site was designed (<http://www.arabscientist.org>) and programmed on PHP by using MySQL database. The site offers quick publishing of the most important research results in the Arab World (agriculture, medicine, engineering ...) and transform the basic information available into organized knowledge to properly use for decision making. The site also offers a specialized forum in plant protection and other sciences, which gives researchers an efficient tool for spreading and retrieving knowledge. The administration of available basic data offers a highly specialized site, which can host all the results obtained by the scientific community in the Arab world. The information is available in three languages: Arabic, English and French.

GT 2

MANAGING PRE- POST-HARVEST FACTORS TO PRODUCE SAFE AND HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS.

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Responses to pre- and post-harvest treatments have an impact on quality of fresh fruits and vegetables. Regulation of the nutritional system before harvest leading to an increase in calcium content of the fruit can create cell wall-support and protect against major post harvest rots e.g. gray mold caused by *Botrytis cinerea*. Meanwhile, post-harvest vacuum infiltration of apples and peaches in calcium salt-solution is effective against blue rot and brown rot caused by *Penicillium expansum* and *Monilinia fructicola*, respectively. Searching for safe products free of chemical residues led to the adoption of biological control of post harvest diseases for fruits and vegetables, utilizing a number of natural antagonists against post-harvest pathogens. The yeast, *Candida oleophila* was found to be effective antagonist against *B. cinerea*, *Rhizopus stolonifer* and *Penicillium* spp. when utilized on strawberries, apricot, citrus and apples. Pre-harvest chitosan spray affect post harvest infection by *B.cinerea* and quality of strawberries indicating a protective effect against deterioration of lower quality fruit. Moreover, it has a potential to prolong the storage life of strawberry and delayed ripening.

GT 3

ROLE OF DATE PALMS IN DESERT CONTROL. Ezarug A. Edongali,
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Libya is one of the Mediterranean countries located on the coast and the desert, with a special climate suitable for date palm production. There are about eight millions date palms, with 400 cultivars, and a production of 500.000 tons/year. Date palm tree was born in a desert climate and could withstand drought, salinity and hot weather. During the last ten years, expansion of date palm cultivation was established in all areas of Libya, specially in the Oasis regions (West & East) Proj. (800.000 Shoots), El-Jufra region (400.000 Shoots) and Fazzan region (400.000 Shoots). This is a yearly plan, and aims to establish pilot farm of ten hectares each to be distributed to farmers. This plantation campaign aims to develop the desert to a reclaimed land for better live.