

15000 to 15210—Continued.

the seed broad at both ends, about one-half as long as the fruit, one-half as wide as long, very rough.

The leaves are long and broad, and rather stiff and heavy, crowded with very numerous long leaflets, and their stalks are armed almost thruout their length with long, stout spines. The fruit clusters are short and dense, their stalks bright yellow, rather short, stout, and only moderately curved, so that the bundles do not hang down below the leaves as in the Deglet Noor, but are almost hidden by the foliage.

This produces fruit that is thought by many of the natives, and even by some of the few Europeans who have tasted it, to surpass the Deglet Noor; is at least equal in quality to the Deglet Noor, which it considerably resembles in flavor. In size Menakher dates are $1\frac{1}{2}$ to nearly 2 times as large as those of the Deglet Noor variety; in color they are generally darker. The seed, tho thick, is short in proportion to the length of the fruit. It is very different in appearance from that of the Deglet Noor. The thick, translucent flesh, altho soft and sirupy, becomes firm when preserved, just as does that of the Deglet Noor. If preserved with any care Menakher dates keep their shape admirably. The skin does not become sticky but remains dry and clean, which is a very desirable property in a dessert fruit. An objectionable feature is the strong development of the white, stringy core. This diminishes perceptibly, however, in thoroly ripe fruit. The consensus of opinion is that in point of appearance, cleanness of skin, keeping quality, and delicacy of flavor the Menakher dates surpass the Deglet Noor, while the latter are superior in the crisper texture of the flesh and small development of the stringy core, or "rag."

This variety ripens its fruits in the latter part of October. It is said to yield little during the first few years after the offshoots are planted, but afterwards surpasses the Deglet Noor in yield, one palm producing sometimes 220 pounds of dates.

15046. *Mokh Begry, or Moukh Begri.*

A second-class "soft" variety; fruit $1\frac{1}{3}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, about three-fourths as wide, broadest at the base, and narrowed thence to the broad, rounded apex, flattened on the sides, bright bay colored when ripe; the flesh very soft, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines thick, rather dark colored, translucent; the seed light brown, one-half to two-thirds as long as the fruit, about twice as long as wide, rounded at both ends. The stalks and branches of the fruit clusters are light orange.

The trees are said not to bear heavily. The dates are rather small and have an unusual shape. The translucent flesh is very soft, but the fruit is said to preserve well. It is very sweet and of delicious flavor, resembling and perhaps equaling the Deglet Noor. Fruit ripens in the latter part of October.

15047. *Okht Ammary.*

Said to resemble Ammary, but to be larger. Reported to ripen at the end of September and not to keep well.

15048. *Okht Pteemy.* (French, *Okht Ftimi.*)

A second-class "soft" date; fruit 2 to $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, about two-fifths as wide, oblong, straight, somewhat pointed at the apex, deep purplish maroon when ripe, the surface shining; the flesh $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 lines thick, soft; the seed slender, about one-half as long as the fruit, only two-sevenths as wide as long; dark brown. The stalks and branches of the fruit clusters are rich orange. The many fruit clusters are short-stalked and almost hidden by the foliage.

The very handsome fruit is longer and more slender than that of Pteemy, and is often brighter colored, but is otherwise very similar. In regard to flavor, no difference could be detected. Altho very soft and sirupy, the fruits preserve well. Okht Pteemy palms give a good crop every year and are very productive. These dates are not generally ripe before November. Among the most alkali-resistant varieties.

15049. *Remta.*

A third-class "dry" date; fruit $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, about one-half as wide, oblong, somewhat pointed at the apex, generally distinctly constricted a little above the base, dark maroon colored when ripe; the flesh about 1 line thick, rather tough; the seed one-half to two-thirds as long as the fruit,