

Update

November 2016 – Issue 16

Beacon Commodities



After two good years, we struggled with achieving a satisfactory yield from the 2016 planting of our English Coriander Crop in Sussex. Similarly to many spring drilled crops, our English Coriander struggled with the early spring weather with large parts of the fields being washed away by floods.



The fields having just been drilled with a well advanced rape crop behind



Coriander leaf

Coriander

The seed was harvested in the middle of September and required drying before being sent to cleaners. The seed has now been cleaned and is stored in Beacon's Warehouse in Essex. Despite the horrific yield we do feel that the quality has held up against previous years. The terrible yield is something we are already addressing with plans to split the crop and move part of the growing area away from Sussex and run two sites in conjunction with each other.

Unfortunately the gentle south facing fields we selected this year caused us problems in the spring when huge deluges of rain caused large parts of the field to be completely washed away / drowned soon after germination. This problem was incredibly localised (and affected the maize crop) with similar issues on surrounding fields but not with fields at the edges of the farm.

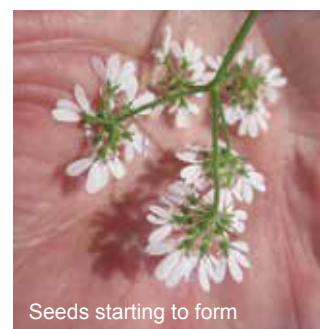
We have also concluded that these deluges of rain affected the yield of the coriander in the remaining parts of the fields as the germination and growing were badly stunted at a critical time leaving far fewer seeds on the heads than expected when the flowers turned to seed.



A windy Sussex



In flower



Seeds starting to form



Unloading into a waiting trailer

On a more positive note, we were once again amazed by the number of honey bees that were attracted to the crop during flowering. We have made a conscious decision not to apply any pesticides, herbicides and fertiliser to the coriander during this time and feel that this will have only benefited the bees at this time.

Post harvest, the seed required drying, but luckily this was done naturally with some manual labour required to turn the seed whilst sitting in the grain store. It was then sent once again to specialist seed cleaners to remove the dust, stalks and splits that are found in every coriander crop around the world.



Sunny Sussex during harvest

We would be delighted to hear from you if you feel you may have interest in acquiring a particular quantity (subject to sample approval) of the 2016 as supplies are short. We do hold some carry over stock from the 2015 Crop as well. Please contact Tommy on 01273 844264 or email tommy@beaconcommodities.co.uk.



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