

Update

August 2015 – Issue 9

Beacon Commodities



Following the success of last year's 2.6 acre trial site of English coriander, which was grown close to our offices in Sussex, we have decided to significantly increase the size of coriander crop up to 40 acres.

The scaling up of the acreage is in response to the positive feedback we received from both distillers and the food trade for the product. It will provide an excellent insight as to whether coriander seed can be grown in the South of England on a commercial scale and whether the UK market is willing to support such a diversification.



9th April – Power harrow



9th April – Drilling the coriander seed

Drilling and harvesting the crop

The selected area on the Farm area measures just under forty acres and spreads over five fields close to the previous trial site. These fields were specifically selected having been in maize for cattle feed the previous year. Maize forms a thick blanket across the land therefore proving effective at eradicating weeds. The fields were ploughed in the middle of March 2015 and on the 9th April the ground was sub-soiled, power harrowed and drilled using a Vaderstad Rapid Box Drill. Having been drilled, the ground was rolled and the seed left to germinate.



27th April – Germination and the first sign of growth



21st May – Slow growth because of cold nights



4th June – Coriander leaf



14th July – Honey bees descend



17th August – Seed heads appear

We have made a conscious decision not to apply any pesticides, herbicides and fertiliser to the coriander and the next operation will be the harvesting of the coriander around the middle of September.

Following harvest, the coriander will be sent to specialist seed cleaners where it will be cleaned and bagged before returning to our Warehouse around mid-October.



30th July – A blanket of white flowers

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 2015 seed as this will allow us to plan for stocks going forward. Please contact Tommy on 01273 844264 or email tommy@beaconcommodities.co.uk.



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