

# PROCESSING OF CUMIN

Cumin (Cuminum Cyminium)

Main countries of production: Iran, Morocco, India and Guatemala  
 Optimal climate: Mild, plenty of sun  
 Elevation: Up to 1000m above sea level  
 Rainfall: Over 2000m  
 Spacing: Well spread, 0.75m apart

## Agricultural and botanical aspects

Cumin is an annual herb that grows to a height of 20-80cm with white or purple flowers and produces seed-like fruits.

## Harvesting

The cumin is ready to harvest 60-90 days after sowing, when the plant begins to wither and the seeds lose their dark green colour. The whole plant is removed from the ground.

## Drying

The plants are dried in the sun or sometimes in the partial sun.

Threshing and winnowing

The 'seeds' are beaten out by threshing the dried plants with sticks. The seeds are then further dried to 10% moisture content (wet basis) and winnowed using a traditional winnowing basket.

## Yield

The yield can be as much as 100kg/hectare

Standards

Indian standard

	<i>Special</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>General</i>
Moisture % (wet basis)	<10	<10	<10
Extraneous material (% by weight)	2	5	7
Damaged 'seeds' (% by weight)	2	4	6
Shrivelled, immature (% by weight)	1.5	3.0	4.0

technical brief