

Cuminum cyminum



Common Name: Cumin

Scientific Name: *Cuminum cyminum*

Family: Apiaceae

Cumin is a low-growing annual herb, about 0.3 m in height, having a much-branched angular stem. The much-divided leaves have long narrow segments and the small white flowers are borne in terminal compound umbels. The rays to each umbel tend to be few and short. The fruits are ovoid-elongated (with a divided stylopodium), laterally compressed, greyish or yellowish-brown in colour.

Economically Important Part: Seeds

Uses: Cumin can be used ground or as whole seeds. It imparts an earthy, warming and aromatic character to food, making it a staple in certain stews and soups, as well as spiced gravies such as curry and chilli. It is also used as an ingredient in some pickles and pastries.