

Coriander grows wild over a wide area of Western Asia and southern Europe, prompting the comment, "It is hard to define exactly where this plant is wild and where it only recently established itself."

Coriander seems to have been cultivated in Greece since at least the second millennium BC. The species was cultivated for the manufacture of perfumes and it appears it was used as a spice for its seeds and as an herb for the flavour of its leaves. This appears to be confirmed by archaeological evidence from the same period when large quantities of the species retrieved from an Early Bronze Age layer at Sitagroi in Macedonia could point to cultivation of the species at that time.

Coriander was brought to the British colonies in North America in 1670 and was one of the first spices cultivated by early settlers.

All parts of the plant are edible, but the fresh leaves and the dried seeds are the parts most traditionally used in cooking.

or added to the dish immediately before serving. They spoil quickly when removed from the plant and lose their aroma when dried or frozen.

The dry fruits are known as coriander seeds. The word coriander in food preparation may refer solely to these seeds (as a spice), rather than to the plant.

Large fruited types are grown mainly by tropical and subtropical countries such as Morocco, India and Australia and cont