



Chelmer Foods

Dried Fruits | Nuts | Seeds | Pulses

Our Founder

When Roger Weaire founded Chelmer Foods in April 1992, unemployment stood at just under 3 million and the UK was in the tail-end of a recession due to its joining the Exchange Rate Mechanism. This had resulted in high interest rates combined with a devaluation of the pound.

This situation didn't deter Roger, though, who had found himself at a crossroads in his career. In his late 40s and having spent over three decades working in the City as a trader and commodities broker, he was unemployed, with only a company car and three months' salary in his pocket.

Roger started work at age 14 and cut his teeth as a 'junior' for a City stockbroker. This had given him a taste for trading and dealing in commodities. So, over the years, he had worked his way up, holding a variety of positions which gave him an understanding of shipping and trading internationally, especially in produce, and dried fruit and nuts in particular.

In 1989, while he was at Guinness Peat as Director of Produce, Roger was approached by the American company ConAgra, the largest food group in the world and asked whether he would join them as MD of UK operations, managing a team of 20 from its office in the City. Then, amid the recession and an economic downturn in the early 90s, a new CEO joined ConAgra and decided to shut the trading operations based in London, Rotterdam, Zurich and San Francisco. Roger was tasked with dismissing all his staff, closing everything down and putting himself effectively out of a job.

But Roger grabbed the positive out of these unfortunate circumstances and decided that he no longer wanted to work for other people. He was going to use his knowledge and his contacts to set up his own business.

So, on the 6th April 1992, Chelmer Foods started trading as an importer and distributor of dried fruit.



Legacy

A very important part of our ethos is being a family-run business. After Roger's move to Chairman in 2018, his son James took over as Managing Director, having already worked in the company for 28 years in many different roles. Being able to have the business run by the same family has allowed us to keep our values at the forefront.

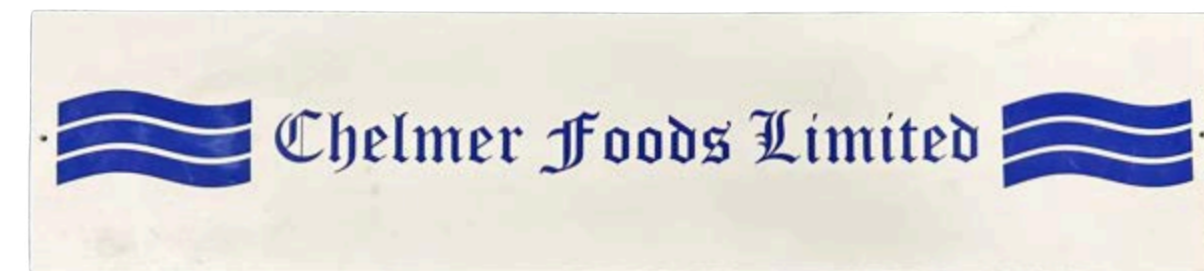
Over the years, we've adapted to different trends, and along with technology upgrades, our logo has also modernised. From our original hand-painted sign to our sleek digital re-imagination with bold, bright colours. Even though we look different, our mission is still the same.

Logo

Our logo is broken down into 3 parts: the River, the Sun, and the Sea.

The river represents the River Chelmer that flows through a large portion of Essex, where our company is based. The sun symbolises the process our fruit goes through, being sun-dried to perfection. Finally, the sea, where most of our product gets transported, all over the globe.

Old Logo



Redesigned Brand



Our Management Team

Our team of directors and managers help to keep the company running smoothly and efficiently. With James Weaire at the helm, our dedicated team of directors are always eager to help our customers and staff. The board of directors consists of Tony Smith, Paul Pleasant, Chris Wilding, Simon Heather and James Turtle. Their combined experience in the industry is paramount to our continued growth.

Each of our departments are run by managers who work closely with team members to ensure that the process is streamlined for each of our customers.



Who We Are

Chelmer Foods is an import and distribution company specialising in Dried Fruit, Nuts, Seeds and Pulses. Our products are catered towards wholesale businesses looking to purchase full pallets, but we also provide mixed pallets and smaller, foodservice bags for multiple uses.

As a BRC-accredited business, we regularly carry out checks and audits to ensure we are providing the highest-standard service that we can.

Our wider team, based across 3 offices in 2 different countries, are dedicated to providing a quality service to each and every one of our customers. From Account Managers to Customer Service Advisors, Technical Coordinators to Warehouse Operatives, our entire staff are focused on delivering excellence.

Locations

Our very first base of operations was in Halstead. Initially, Roger wanted to find an office in Chelmsford, but after a lot of searching, a much bigger space opened up in Halstead.

From there, we have grown considerably. Our head office is now located in Braintree, with a dedicated warehouse in Chatteris to handle deliveries, and even an office based in Izmir in Türkiye!

We are continuing to go from strength to strength, expanding across the UK and abroad with our offices.

Product Range

Dried Fruit

- Apricots
- Banana Chips
- Berries
- Coconut
- Currants
- Dates
- Figs
- Glacé Cherries
- Glacé Product
- Mixed Fruit
- Organic
- Prunes
- Raisins
- Sultanas
- Tropical

Nuts

- Almonds
- Brazil Nuts
- Cashews
- Hazelnuts
- Macadamias
- Mixed Nuts
- Pecans
- Pistachios
- Walnuts

Seeds

- Chia
- Linseed
- Millet
- Organic
- Pine Nuts
- Poppy
- Pumpkin
- Sesame
- Sunflower

Pulses

- Black Eyed Beans
- Black Turtle Beans
- Black Quinoa
- Borlotti Beans
- Brown Lentils
- Buckwheat
- Bulgur Wheat
- Butter Beans
- Chickpeas
- 'Puy Type' Lentils
- Dark Red Kidney Beans



Our wide range of products on offer allows us to fulfil the needs of as many of our customers as possible. We are constantly branching out and exploring different products and origins to add to our existing range.

Our Star Products

Turkish Fruit - Our top-quality vine fruit from Türkiye includes a wide variety of Raisins and Sultanas, and our tree fruit includes Apricots, Dates, and Figs.

Mixed Fruit - We offer pre-mixed fruit combinations, ready to use straight out of the bag. Mixed fruit with peel, without peel, or even our luxury range (including currants, cherries and apricots)

Almonds - With many different shapes and sizes in stock, our almonds are suited for every need. From Blanched Nibbed to Whole Roasted, our USA-origin nuts are perfect for every occasion. BBQ Seasoned Almonds.

Cashews - Hailing from Vietnam and Kenya, our cashews are rich and creamy. Perfectly roasted or raw, we have Cashews to fit all of your needs. We also do Honey Roasted Caramelised Cashews for extra added sweetness.

Sunflower Seeds - The sunflower seeds we provide are perfect for baking with, or even just as a standalone snack. Our materials are sourced from Eastern Europe, which means that we can guarantee quality and track your order every step of the way.

Red Split Lentils - Arguably the King of Pulses, Red Split Lentils are a staple for a reason. They are used in countless dishes across the Middle East and other regions worldwide. Due to their popularity, we make sure to source only the finest quality lentils for our customers.



Global Reach

Our company has gone from strength to strength, and over the years, we have expanded across the UK and even gone international! The strategic locations of our offices mean that we can cover much of the globe in the most efficient way.

Our headquarters is based in Braintree, Essex. This is where our Sales, Shipping, Marketing, and Finance teams are, along with members of the Stock and Technical teams. Having all of these different departments under one roof allows for quick communication and collaboration.

Our main warehouse is in Chatteris, Cambridgeshire. From here, we can receive, store, and pack pallets ready for shipment anywhere in the world. The large office space attached to our state-of-the-art warehouse is home to the Operations team, alongside other members of the Technical and Warehouse admin teams.

Going international was always something that we dreamed of, and in 2022 that was realised! We have office space in Izmir, Türkiye, which has expanded our reach massively.

Services We Offer

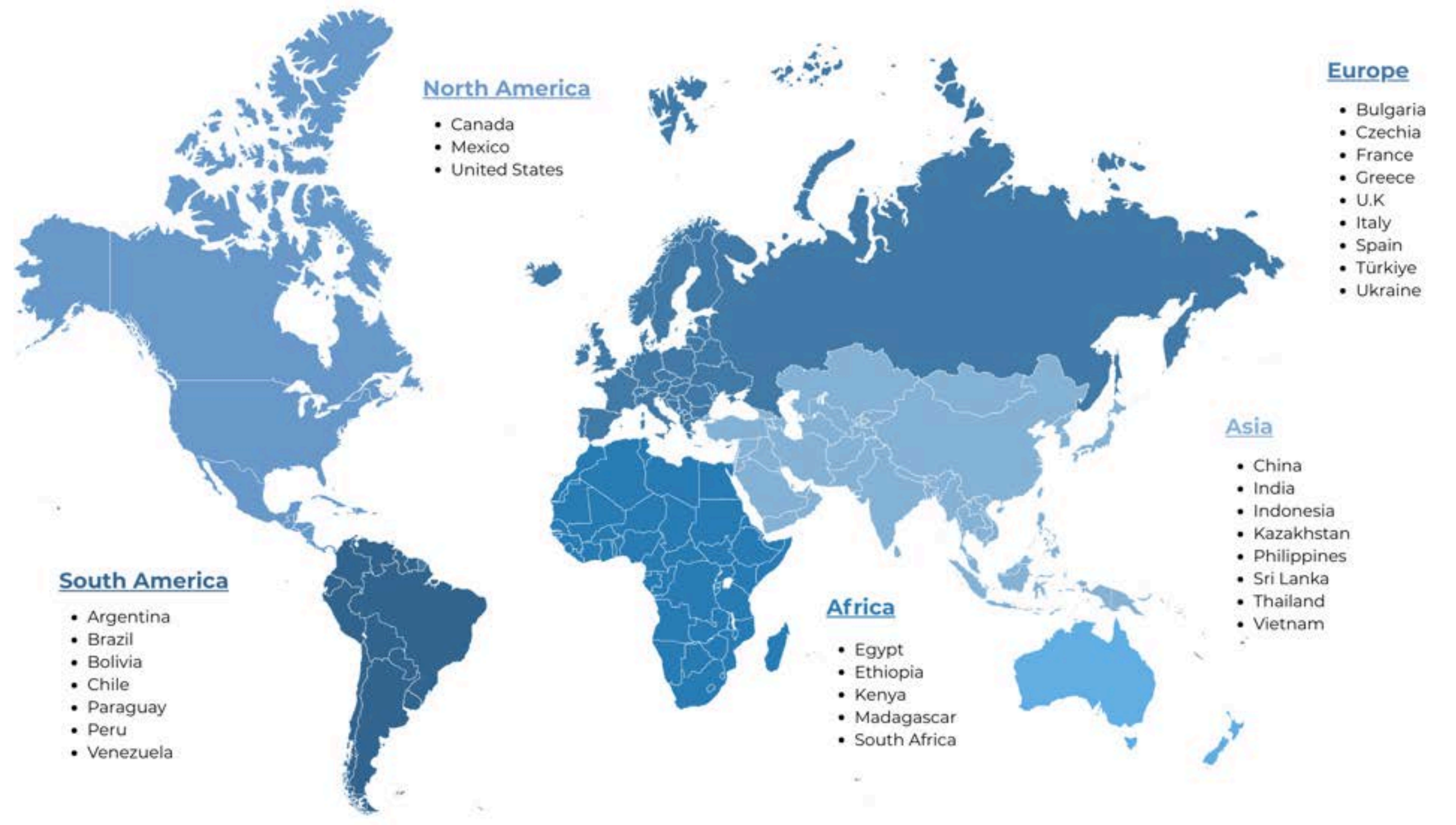
Wholesale: Bulk order pallets of varying sizes.

Retail: Product packaged for the end consumer, good for shop shelves.

Mixed Pallets: Bulk order pallets of multiple products.

Foodservice: Larger-sized bags marketed towards the foodservice sector, with ingredients in Chelmer-branded bags.

Own-Label Packing: We can provide all of our foodservice products in labelled bags of your own company.



Sourcing from **30 Countries** we have more than **100 Products Available**

for over **900 Customers** catered to by **50+ Staff Members**

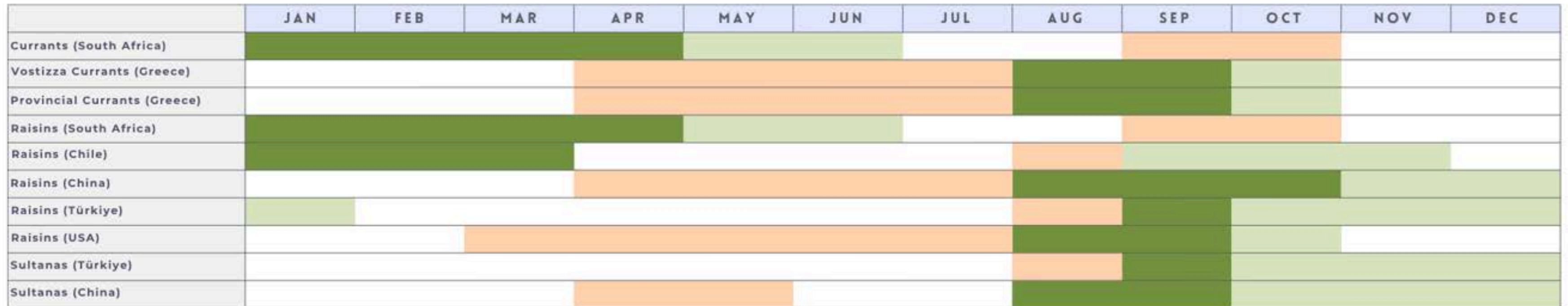
■ Vulnerable Period
 ■ Harvest Period
 ■ Arrival to the UK

TREE FRUIT



■ Vulnerable Period
 ■ Harvest Period
 ■ Arrival to the UK

VINE FRUIT



Vulnerable Period
 Harvest Period
 Arrival to the UK

BERRIES

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mulberries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Goji Berries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blueberries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cranberries (North America) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Strawberries | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sour Cherries | | | | | | | | | | | | |

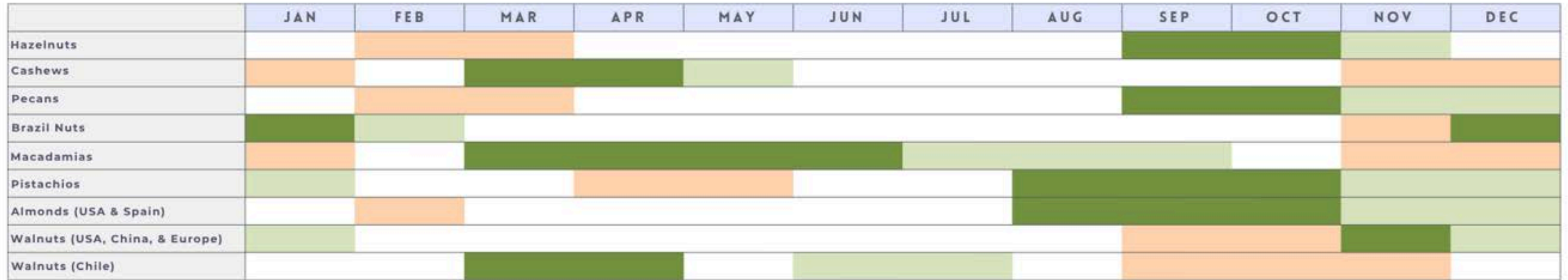
Vulnerable Period
 Harvest Period
 Arrival to the UK

TROPICAL FRUIT

| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Banana Chips | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Raw Coconut (Philippines) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pineapple (Thailand) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mango | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Guava | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Papaya | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ginger | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cantaloupe Melon | | | | | | | | | | | | |

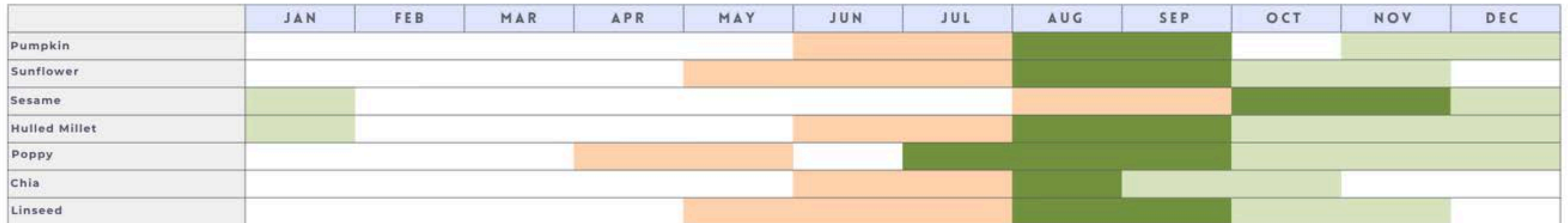
NUTS

■ Vulnerable Period
 ■ Harvest Period
 ■ Arrival to the UK



SEEDS

■ Vulnerable Period
 ■ Harvest Period
 ■ Arrival to the UK



PULSES



| | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Lentils | | | | | | Vulnerable Period | Vulnerable Period | Harvest Period | Harvest Period | Arrival to the UK | Arrival to the UK | |
| Chickpeas (Canada) | | | | | | Vulnerable Period | Vulnerable Period | Harvest Period | Harvest Period | Arrival to the UK | Arrival to the UK | |
| Chickpeas (Argentina) | Vulnerable Period | Vulnerable Period | Harvest Period | Harvest Period | Arrival to the UK | Arrival to the UK | | | | | | Vulnerable Period |
| Peas | | | | | | Vulnerable Period | Vulnerable Period | Harvest Period | Harvest Period | Arrival to the UK | Arrival to the UK | |
| Beans | | | | | | Vulnerable Period | Vulnerable Period | Harvest Period | Harvest Period | Arrival to the UK | Arrival to the UK | |
| Mung Beans (Venezuela) | Vulnerable Period | Vulnerable Period | Harvest Period | Harvest Period | Arrival to the UK | Arrival to the UK | | | | | | Vulnerable Period |
| Buckwheat | | | | | | Vulnerable Period | Vulnerable Period | Harvest Period | Harvest Period | Arrival to the UK | Arrival to the UK | |
| Bulgur Wheat | | | | | | Vulnerable Period | Vulnerable Period | Harvest Period | Harvest Period | Arrival to the UK | Arrival to the UK | |
| Quinoa | | | | | | Vulnerable Period | Vulnerable Period | Harvest Period | Harvest Period | Arrival to the UK | Arrival to the UK | |
| Popcorn | | | | | | Vulnerable Period | Vulnerable Period | Harvest Period | Harvest Period | Arrival to the UK | Arrival to the UK | |

Our products come from all over the globe, and with different climates come different challenges. The vast majority of our dried fruit is from the Northern Hemisphere, meaning that it arrives in the UK mid-late autumn. The vulnerabilities for these crops are an assortment, from heat and potential sun damage for Californian Raisins, to widespread frost affecting Turkish Apricots.

The Southern Hemisphere has its seasons flipped compared to us. That means the crops, like Vietnamese Cashews and Tropical Fruit from Southeast Asia, tend to arrive to the UK anywhere from early Spring to Summer. Flooding tends to be a big issue in this area, so crops are at risk of getting waterlogged.



Head Office

220 The Courtyard
Skyline 120 Business
Park
Braintree, Essex
CM77 7AA
01376 343500

Warehouse

Fenton Way
Chatteris
Cambridgeshire
PE16 6UP
01376 333395

Türkiye

Trend Office
Bayrakli
Izmir
Türkiye