

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-28RT-201T Cherokee Arrow IV, N2CL	
No & type of Engines:	1 Continental TSIO-360 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1980	
Date & Time (UTC):	31 August 2006 at 1739 hrs	
Location:	Frensham Airstrip, Churt, Surrey	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 2
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Extensive damage to left wing and left main landing gear	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	68 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,590 hours (of which 691 were on type) Last 90 days - 21 hours Last 28 days - 9 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

Just before touch-down the aircraft drifted to the right and its right wing tip contacted a maize crop bordering the airstrip. The aircraft swung to the right and came to rest in the crop with its left main landing gear collapsed.

History of the flight

After an uneventful flight from France, the pilot commenced his approach to Runway 25. This was at an airstrip from which he had operated since 1979. The airstrip has a length of 1,000 m and a short grass surface which was dry at the time. The weather was good with a forecast surface wind in the local area of 220°/12 kt gusting to 24 kt.

As the pilot flared the aircraft, he was aware of the stall warning sounding. N2CL started drifting to the right and its right wing tip contacted a maize crop bordering the edge of the airstrip. The aircraft swung through almost 90° to the right and came to rest in the crop with the left main landing gear collapsed.

The pilot considered that a gust of wind had caused the drift to the right but he acknowledged that, having returned to his home airstrip after a few days abroad, he may have relaxed and suffered a momentary lapse of concentration.