



DAO Labs
Sustainability, Sourcing and Ingredients
Fall 2019

Overview

DAO Labs believes that healing begins with nature. Consistent with this belief, our strict policies as they relate to the sourcing and sustainability of herbs and ingredients used in our formulas is as important to us as the safety of processes we employ with their creation and development. Moreover, given the reputation that some Traditional Chinese Medicine providers are not engaged in sustainable sourcing practices, we've partnered with [WildAid](#), a California-based nonprofit that advocates against the sourcing of exotic animals for commercial purposes, proudly donating 1% of all revenue while participating in their international events on Chinese Medicine as well. We are an advocate across the acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine trade for sustainable sourcing practices.

Sourcing & Ingredient Testing

All of our herbs are sustainably sourced from farms across Asia. We work closely with our suppliers, ensuring that all herbs are sourced from farms practicing Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and request regular updates on this mandate. All herbs are non-GMO and in some cases, organic, with the goal of achieving USDA Organic verification(s), both from a sourcing standpoint and manufacturing, as volumes on the former allow.

Testing

We are very proud of our testing protocols, methods and procedures. Recognizing the nature of our product, we take these matters very seriously. Further details can be found on our website, mydaolabs.com, but to summarize:

- All finished products are blended and tested in the United States, with herbs that are initially processed in facilities with internationally recognized standards – from ISO to cGMP to name a few. We inspect these facilities annually.
- Our testing protocols include the following:
 - Full testing of raw herbs and finished herbal blending (herbs are tested on the way in, and on the way out).
 - Tests are independently verified in the U.S. prior to blending.
 - Finished product testing for broader food safety prior to releasing the formulas.

- We request a TLC verification on the herbs’ purity upon receipt in the United States, then independently test at a third-party lab in the U.S. to once again confirm herbal authenticity and purity.
- Certificates of Analysis and Material Safety Data Sheets, where appropriate, accompany all ingredients and components.

Our Relationship with WildAid

DAO Labs began partnering with [WildAid](#) prior to our launch in 2017. As noted on their website, “WildAid works to reduce global consumption of wildlife products and to increase local support for conservation efforts.” DAO Labs proudly donates 1% of our revenue to WildAid each month – a commitment we’ve made since launch. All of formulas are vegetarian, and we advocate to the professional acupuncture and Chinese Medicine community the virtue of using herbs over animal-based options constantly (see more below).

Moreover, we seek to serve as an ambassador of their good efforts, amplifying their message to our acupuncture community, and participating in their international symposiums (Hong Kong 2018 and Shanghai 2019), the topics for which are specific to the Traditional Chinese Medicine trade.

On this point, DAO Labs co-founder, Dr. Eric Karchmer has been quoted internationally on the use of herbal options in lieu of animal-derived options, [as he was last year](#) on the use of herbs over tiger bone for joint pain.

Ingredients

A list of the herbs used in our formulas are included in the table below. It should be noted that all herbs are generally considered safe, and where necessary, we modify the classic blends for western consumption (as in the example of removing “Xi Xin” a component that is commonly included in Asia, from our Joint Vitality blend).

Emotional Balance

ENGLISH NAME	Source	Chinese Name
Tangkuei & Bupleurum Formula		BAI SHAO
Poria	Fungus	FU LING
Tangkuei	Root	DANG GUI
Atractylodes (Alba)	Stem	BAI ZHU
Ginger(Dried)	Root	PAO JIANG
Bupleurum	Root	CHAI HU
Mint	Leaf	BO HE
Licorice (Baked)	Root	ZHI GAN CAO

Digestive Harmony

ENGLISH NAME	Source	Chinese Name
Citrus & Crataegus Formula		SHAN ZHA
Pinellia	Stem	BAN XIA
Massa Fermentata		SHEN QU
Poria	Fungus	FU LING
Sprouted Barley	Fruit	MAI YA
Raphanus	Seed	LAI FU ZI
Red Tangerine Peel	Bark	JU HONG
Forsythia	Fruit	LIAN QIAO

Immunity Support

ENGLISH NAME	Source	Chinese Name
Astragalus & Siler Formula		HUANG QI
Atractylodes (Alba)	Stem	BAI ZHU
Siler	Root	FANG FENG

Women's Formula

ENGLISH NAME	Source	Chinese Name
Tangkuei Four Combination		SHU DI HUANG
Tangkuei	Root	DANG GUI
White Peony	Root	BAI SHAO
Ligusticum	Root	CHUAN XIONG

Mental Tranquility

ENGLISH NAME	Source	Chinese Name
Ginseng	Root	Ren Shen
Atractylodes	Stem	Bai Zhu
Poria	Fungus	Fu Ling
Zizyphus Seeds	Seed	Suan Zao Ren
Longan Fruit		Long Yan Rou
Astragalus	Root	Huang Qi
Tangkuei	Root	Dang Gui
Polygala	Peel/Root	Yuan Zhi
Ginger (Fresh)	Root	Sheng Jiang
Jujube	Fruit	Da Zao
Vladimiria	Root	Chuan Mu Xiang
Licorice (Baked)	Root	Zhi Gan Cao

Physical Tranquility

ENGLISH NAME	Source	Chinese Name
Rehmannia	Root	Sheng Di Huang

Ginseng	Root	Ren Shen
Poria	Fungus	Fu Ling
Polygala	Root	Yuan Zhi
Acorus	Stem	Shi Chang Pu
Scrophulana	Root	Xuan Shen
Biota Seed	Seed	Bai Zi Ren
Platycodon	Root	Jie Geng
Asparagus Tuber	Root	Tian Men Dong
Salvia Root	Root	Dan Shen
Zizyphus	Seed	Suan Zao Ren
Licorice	Root	Gan Cao
Ophiopogon	Root	Mai Men Dong
Stemona	Root	Bai Bu
Eucommia	Bark	Du Zhong
Poria (Fushen)	Fungus	Fu Shen
Tangkuei	Root	Dang Gui
Schizandra	Fruit	Wu Wei Zi

Joint Vitality

ENGLISH NAME	Source	Chinese Name
Tuhuo Angelica	Root	Du Hou
Taxillus	Plant	Sang Ji Sheng
Eucommia	Bark	Du Zhong
Cyathula	Root	Niu Xi
Gentiana Macrophylla	Root	Qin Jiao
Poria	Fungus	Fu Ling
Cinnamon	Bark	Rou Gui
Siler	Root	Fang Feng
Ligusticum	Root	Chuan Xiong
Ginseng	Root	Ren Shen
Licorice	Root	Gan Cao
Tangkuei	Root	Dang Gui
White Peony	Root	Bai Shao
Rehmannia	Root	Sheng Di Huang

For flavoring agents, we use both naturally sourced, “real” honey powder, along with natural flavors that are sourced from Canada and the United States.

Our suppliers define natural flavoring as the essential oil, oleoresin, essence or extractive, protein hydrolysate, distillate, or any product of roasting, heating or enzymolysis which contains the flavoring constituents derived from a spice, fruit, or fruit juice, vegetable or

vegetable juice, edible yeast, herb, bark, bud, root, leaf or similar plant material, meat, seafood, poultry, eggs, dairy products or fermentation products thereof, whose significant function in food is flavoring rather than nutritional.

The remaining ingredients used in our formulas include:

Sodium Bicarbonate
Potassium Bicarbonate
Citric Acid
Magnesium Sulfate
Collagen Powder
Coconut Oil Powder