



A SUSTAINABLE SOURCING COMMITMENT



Full grown sandalwood tree in Western Australia

A CHERISHED AROMATHERAPY RESOURCE

Sandalwood essential oil is a prized aromatherapy oil with a sweet, warm, rich balsamic aroma that is relaxing, soothing and sensual. It's an excellent fixative when combined with other oils, slowing the evaporation of scent and adding character to blends. The oil is suitable for use on all skin types and is especially useful for chapped, dry, sensitive or inflamed skin.

Due to an increasing world demand that is outstripping the supply, Aura Cacia[®] chooses to offer sustainably produced

sandalwood oil distilled from the Western Australian sandalwood tree, *Santalum spicatum*, rather than that from the troubled *Santalum album* grown in India. The aromas of the two oils differ somewhat in the highly volatile top note, are more alike in the middle notes, and are almost identical in the all-important base notes. Aura Cacia's sustainable Australian sandalwood essential oil is used like Indian sandalwood in most aromatherapy applications.

THE HISTORY OF SANDALWOOD

Sandalwood has been valued in India for at least 2,000 years as one of the most sacred trees. The wood has been—and is—used in making various religious artifacts, a paste for marking the skin, coffins and was even used in early buildings. It was an important medicinal herb in traditional Chinese and Tibetan medicines and has been a critical perfumery component for more than 2000 years. The main source of sandalwood oil is a very slow-growing tree in India often damaged by fire, pests, disease and poaching. In spite of the Indian government's efforts, the number of mature sandalwood trees in India is declining. Aura Cacia[®] now sources sandalwood oil exclusively from Australia, where a program of controlled harvest and aggressive reforestation provides a truly sustainable source.



Eastern Australia coastline

AN AUSTRALIAN ALTERNATIVE

For 80 years, the Western Australian government has worked to ensure the sustainability of Australia's sandalwood with annual harvest quotas, export licenses, harvest size specifications and the appointment of forest officers to manage sandalwood harvesting and regeneration activities, curb illegal harvesting and begin reforestation—efforts maintained today by Western Australia's Forest Product Commission (FPC). Harvesters are required to plant twelve sandalwood seeds for every sandalwood tree that is harvested and the resulting trees will not be harvested for at least 100 years.. These conscientious government programs will extend the supply of Australian sandalwood trees indefinitely.

BENEFITS OF SANDALWOOD

Sandalwood is revered, even held sacred, in many traditions for its ability to inspire spiritual insight. It is a valuable fixative with a powerfully tenacious earthy, woody scent that provides a strong base note in blends with almost any other oil. It is frequently used in skin-care products for its soothing, cooling and moisturizing properties. Aura Cacia's sustainably grown Australian sandalwood is interchangeable with Indian sandalwood in aromatherapy.



PLANT NAME
Santalum spicatum

PLANT PART USED
 heartwood

SOURCE
 Western Australia

AROMA PROFILE
 sweet-woody

AROMATHERAPY BENEFITS
 centering, focusing, sensual

WORKING WITH NATURE

The Australian sandalwood grows to about 20 feet tall and is a hemi-parasitic plant, deriving nourishment from the roots of its hosts (usually a combination of species including acacia trees). Sandalwood essential oil is found in the heartwood of the tree, which often requires decades to reach a harvestable level. In order to maximize oil harvest (the best oil is in the roots), and most efficiently utilize the tree (often over 80% for various uses), sandalwood harvesters, or "lifters," carefully remove the whole tree from the ground.

The aggressive manual reseedling mandated to harvesters by the FPC is designed to imitate natural regeneration.

SEEING FOR OURSELVES

In May of 2007, the Aura Cacia[®] sourcing team traveled to Australia and visited with the FPC and sandalwood growers, harvesters and processors to ensure the oil produced is truly sustainable. We found a government and industry with a commitment to high quality sandalwood oil that's produced in a sustainable, socially responsible manner. (Half of the harvesters are aboriginal peoples earning hard-to-come-by income through the government's program.)

AN EASY CHOICE

Given the interchangeability of Australian and Indian sandalwood for aromatherapy purposes and the serious threat the continued use of Indian sandalwood has on its long-term viability, we think the choice to support sustainable Australian sandalwood is an easy one.

Aura Cacia[®] will continue to buy only Australian sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*) and encourages others to switch from Indian sandalwood to sustainable Australian sandalwood to help preserve this valuable aromatherapy resource.



Aura Cacia[®] Sourcing Team Member Tim Blakley with a member of the Forest Product Commission



Aura Cacia[®] Sourcing Team Members Kathy Larson and Tim Blakley with harvested sandalwood logs



WELL EARTH PROGRAM

Aura Cacia's Australian sandalwood supplier is a certified partner in the Well Earth sustainable sourcing program. For more on Well Earth go to auracacia.com/wellearth.

For more information
 visit www.auracacia.com