

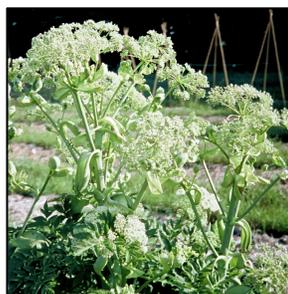
***Angelica dahurica* (Fisch. ex Hoffm.)**

Benth. & Hook. f.

Apiaceae

Source of: baí zhǐ 白芷

Daurian angelica root



Summary Description

A part sun biennial or short-lived perennial that responds to cool, moist, fertile soil at a forest edge, valley or stream bank. Dauria is near the Mongolian-Siberian border and the plant is hardy to Zone 4 at least. After planting, a basal clump forms to about 30 inches high (fuller in richer soil), with complex, divided leaves 10-20 inches long and reddish-purple coloration at the base of the clump. The root should be harvested for medicine before the flower stalk begins to rise. The sturdy hollow stalk can be 7 feet tall, with greenish-white flower umbels up to 12 inches in diameter. Seeds follow in autumn, turning medium brown and papery as they ripen. This plant will naturalize in an appropriate setting.

Propagation

Dry, flat seeds with dorsal and lateral ribs will wind-disperse widely, with a few germinating years later in suitable settings. Seeds should be fresh (less than six months old) for good germination rates, and dry-stored seeds are all dead after one year. Angelicas need light to germinate. Surface sow fresh seed on a moist medium, do not cover, keep moist. Will germinate in 14-21 days at 70°F. Seedlings may be kept in individual pots for a year before setting out, to bulk up the roots. If held in pots, the basal clumps would form in year 2 and the flower stalks would arise in year 3.

Cultivation

Plant at a 24-inch radius in partial shade. Rich soil and even moisture will increase size in all parts, although the plant is tough and can endure neglect and short periods of drought. Woodland-type mulches are best. If the plant naturalizes, transplant volunteers in spring if desired.

Harvest & Processing

Roots must be harvested before the flower stalk rises. The cylindrical, pale brown roots are 1-2 inches thick and 4-7 inches long. They have a longitudinal grain, a white interior, and a pleasant aroma resembling that of wild Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*). Remove leaves, trim side roots, make thin even longitudinal or oblique slices of main root.

References

Flora of China: http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=2&taxon_id=200015358

Bensky *Materia Medica* page: 24

Alternate species

A. taiwaniana S.S. Ying (*A. dahurica* var. *formosana* (H. de Boissieu) Yen)

Angelica taiwaniana has a slightly different leaf texture.



Notice how the roots shrivel after the flower stalk emerges in year 2-3. Harvest for *bai zhi* before that.

