

Product Factsheet

Gum Arabic

Physical Characteristics

Gum Arabic is an amber, amorphous, highly viscous material when it is in fresh form and solid after contact with the atmosphere. It is light in colour with shades of yellow, red or brown, depending on the species of acacia tree, the country of origin and condition of storage. It is nontoxic, odourless and tasteless. Gum Arabic is soluble in cold or in hot water and in some oils, but insoluble in most well-known organic solvents.

Types & Grades

1) Hashab: harvested from *Acacia senegal* trees and widely recognised as the best in quality. It is commercially available in the following grades:

a) Hand Picked Selected (HPS): highest and most expensive grade, containing the cleanest and largest nodules, with the lightest colour.

b) Cleaned & Sifted: the material which remains after the Hand Picked Selected and the Siftings have been removed. Comprises of whole or broken lumps varying in colour from pale to dark amber.

c) Cleaned: the standard grade used throughout the world, where the colour varies from light to dark amber and the gum contains various amounts of siftings, but has had all of the dust removed.

d) Siftings: the finer particles, consisting of the residue formed by sorting the choicer grades above. Contains some sand, bark and dirt.

e) Dust: lowest grade collected upon completion of cleaning process, and comprises fine particles of gum, admixed with sand and dirt.

2) Talha: harvested from *Acacia seyal*, considered lower in quality with a darker appearance, commercially available in the same grades above.

Technical Data

(Hashab / *Acacia senegal*)

Optical Rotation	-26° to -35°
pH	4.2 - 4.8
Viscosity	≤ 150 cps
Moisture Content	≤ 15%
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Moisture Content	≤ 15%
Total Ash	≤ 4%
Acid-Insoluble Ash	≤ 0.1%
Starch/Dextrin	Negative
Tannin	Negative
Arsenic (As)	≤ 3 ppm
Lead (Pb)	≤ 5 ppm
Heavy Metals	≤ 20 ppm
Salmonella/E.Coli	Negative