

Yang deficiency

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Yang represents the energy that is responsible for warming and activating bodily functions. When this energy is depleted your body begins to slow down, displaying signs of under activity and sensations of coldness. Foods to tonify yang include;

Grains	Quinoa, sweet (glutinous) rice, wheat germ
Vegetables	Leek, mustard greens, onion, radish, scallion, squash, sweet potato, turnip, watercress
Fruit	Cherry, litchi, logan, peach, raspberry, strawberry
Nuts and seeds	Chestnuts, pinenuts, pistachio nuts, walnuts
Fish	Anchovy, lobster, mussel, prawn, shrimp, trout
Meat	Chicken, lamb, venison, kidneys (both beef and lamb)
Herbs and spices	Basil, black pepper, caper, cayenne, chive seed, cinnamon bark, clove, dill seed, fennel seed, fennugreek seed, garlic, ginger, horseradish, nutmeg, peppermint, rosemary, sage, savory, spearmint, star anise, tumeric, thyme, white pepper
Beverages	Chai tea, jasmine tea
Common supplements	Algae, brown sugar, Korean ginseng, malt sugar, vinegar

Foods especially useful to tonify Kidney Yang Deficiency.

<i>Fruit</i>	raspberry
<i>Nuts / seeds</i>	chestnut, pistachio, walnut
<i>Fish</i>	lobster, shrimp, mussels, prawn
<i>Meat</i>	lamb, venison, both sheep and beef kidney's
<i>Herbs / spices</i>	basil, clove, rosemary, chive leaf, fennel seed, fennugreek seed, horseradish
<i>Beverages</i>	jasmine tea
<i>Supplements</i>	algae

Examples of every day western foods that can be used to build yang, include

- Roast chicken with sage and thyme
- Roasted vegetables with and rosemary
- Rice porridge with cinnamon, nutmeg and a little brown sugar
- Leek and potato soup with black pepper
- Or by adding any of the many spices as listed above to dishes when cooking.

Foods to avoid. It is important to avoid foods that will further drain the body's yang energy. Cold food and liquids fall into this category. Here 'cold foods' refers not only to those directly taken from the fridge but also to raw foods, as these require extra energy for digestion compared to pre-cooked foods. This may mean choosing a pasta salad over a green salad or switching from muesli to oat porridge for breakfast.

Using a warming method of cooking will also enhance the body's energy by preserving yang, therefore soups, porridges and slow roasted foods become the dishes of choice for those with a predominate yang deficiency. The herbs and spices mentioned in the charts above are warming and as such in small amounts encourage digestion and circulation throughout the body. While it may seem reasonable to achieve an enhanced warming effect by using the stronger spices such as black pepper liberally, care needs to be taken as these can be used to excess, inducing sweating which in fact actually has a cooling drying effect on the body.