

Be Fit Basics: Spaghetti Squash Salad

Adapted from Cooking Light

1 whole spaghetti squash (about 3 pounds)

1 tbsp oil, such as canola or olive

3 tbsp fresh lime juice (about 2-3 limes)

1 tbsp fresh ginger, peeled and minced

1 tbsp dark sesame oil

½ tsp salt

1/4 tsp red pepper flakes

1 red pepper, diced

1 can chickpeas (about 15 oz)

½ cup cilantro, coarsely chopped

1 tbsp sesame seeds, toasted*

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Cut squash in half; spoon out and discard seeds. Rub inside flesh of squash with 1 tbsp oil (including the edges) and place flesh side down on a baking sheet. Roast until squash is tender when pierced with a fork, about 30-40 minutes (turn squash over so flesh is facing up to test for doneness). Let cool; scrape flesh with a fork to remove spaghetti-like strands.

Mix together lime juice, ginger, sesame oil, salt and red pepper flakes. Combine squash, red pepper, chickpeas and cilantro in bowl; toss with dressing and sprinkle with sesame seeds.

Notes:

-*To toast sesame seeds, heat them in a small sauté pan on medium heat until they turn slightly brown and begin to smell nutty. Alternatively, you could leave them untoasted.

Yield: 4 servings (about 1½ cup each)

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVING:

CALORIES: 220 calories PROTEIN: 7 g SODIUM: 480 mg

CARBOHYDRATE: 28 g FIBER: 8 g FAT: 11 g Sat Fat: 1.5 g

MAKE IT A MEAL:

Entree: 1 serving spaghetti squash salad **Starch**: ½ whole wheat pita (70 calories)

Vegetable: 2 cups mixed greens tossed with ½ tbsp olive oil and balsamic vinegar (75 calories) **Vegetable (mixed greens) toppings**: 2 tbsp dried cranberries (45 calories) and 1 tbsp

crumbled feta (40 calories) **Fruit**: 1 pear, sliced (105 calories)

PREP TIP

- Place pear slices on top of mixed greens.

GROCERY SHOPPING LIST

 $1\,spaghetti\,squash, 1\,red\,pepper,\,2\text{--}3\,limes,\,cilantro,\,fresh\,ginger,\,pear,\,mixed\,greens$

Crumbled feta Whole wheat pita

Dried cranberries

Dark sesame oil, sesame seeds

1 can chickpeas

Condiments: olive or canola oil; balsamic vinegar; salt; red pepper flakes