# immune boosting meal plan



### © by Heather Nicholds

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the written prior permission of the author.

Published in Canada by Heather Nicholds.

Template design created by Parker Design House, www.parkerdesignhouse.com

Contact the author at heather@heathernicholds.com











### DISCLAIMER

This book is for educational purposes, from the research, education and experience of Heather Nicholds. It is not intended as medical advice. You should consult with a nutritionist, dietitian or naturopath before beginning a new nutrition program, and if you run into any problems on this plan, do the same.

Do not take any nutritional supplements without first checking with your physician for potential adverse reactions with any medications you're taking. You should not stop taking prescribed medication without the advice of a medical doctor to do so.

Never disregard professional medical, health, nutrition or any and all related issues and advice, or delay in seeking it because of something you have read here. This is especially important if you have a serious health concern, are on medication, have had health problems in the past, or have had past indications that a vegan or vegetarian diet might cause adverse effects for your body.

This nutrition advice does not replace any advice or prescriptions you have been given by your physician.



# veg•an•ook:

### /vēgənook/

### noun

vegan cooking to put some wow in your mouth. zing pow healthy, baby.

### 3 facets of veganooking:

1. Veganize

No animal ingredients - just plants.

2. Healthify

Replacing empty calories with nutrient density.

3. Super Yumful

Infusing max flavor into every bite.

Cause if it tastes great, you'll be back for more.



### **About Your Nutritionist**



Hi! My name's Heather. I'm a Certified Holistic Nutritionist helping vegans (or veg-curious) nourish their bodies through easy, wholesome, and delicious plant-based meals.

My goal is to show you how to get balanced nutrition and truly enjoy your food – so that you stick with being vegan for the long term.

I was drawn to a vegan lifestyle when I learned that eating plants was the single biggest thing I could do to help save

our planet – in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, resource usage, rainforest destruction, reef destruction, and so much more... Way beyond switching to CFL lightbulbs or taking shorter showers.

I realized I could do something to make a difference in a problem that before had seemed too big for one person. Here was something that was within my control. Something that was so easy for me to do, and makes such a massive difference.

I wanted to make sure I was getting everything my body needed to thrive, so I went back to school to study holistic nutrition, from a vegan perspective.

After shifting to a healthy vegan lifestyle, I had more energy, I lost some extra weight without trying, and I didn't have chronic gas or digestion issues. I had no idea that this was how I was supposed to feel! I didn't realize how good "good" could feel!

I can help inspire and motivate you to take control of your own health and energy levels through conscious choices about what you eat.

But I'm not going to tell you what to do. You have to make your own choices. There are so many people who have so many "rules" about food that they wind up unbalanced and unhappy. My philosophy of healthy food and healthy living is simple: Eat and do the things that make you balanced and happy.

I eat lots of mangoes, chickpeas, squash, and chocolate.

I love kale, but I don't have a shrine to it.

I love maple syrup, but I don't need to use a lot of it.

I hope you find something in here that inspires your tastedbuds or your soul. Even better - I hope you find a tidbit of information or a meal to share with a friend.

Thanks for being here.

Heather

Heather Nicholds, C.H.N.

heather@heathernicholds.com

### **About The Plan**

Are you ready to boost the nutrition, flavor and energy you get from your food? It can all happen at once, I promise!

This meal plan is all about showing you how to make delicious vegan meals that give you balanced nutrition and nourishment to fuel your day.

If this is your first time trying plant-based meals, you might be buying and working with foods that are new to you, so cut yourself some slack and don't expect your very first week to go perfectly.

Your focus is to stick with whole foods and try the meals I've put together for you in the plan. If you do that, by the end of this week you'll start being more in touch with your body's natural cues and able to gauge when you're hungry and full—not just eating out of boredom or driven by cravings.

As you get more balanced nutrition in the long term, you should find your energy levels starting to balance out to sustain you throughout the day.

Eating plants, you may find your skin getting clear and glowing, your digestion improving, your mind more clear, your immune system more resilient, your moods more balanced, and your mind is more at ease with the choices you're making.

What I hear most often is that you struggle with knowing how to make meals on a regular basis and how to plan what you're going to eat for a full day.

This plan takes the guesswork out of cooking for the plant-based diet, giving you three meals a day and snacks to show you how to organize balanced meals, with full nutrition info to see what's going on and shopping lists to keep organized.

You'll find clear guidance and a solid action plan to transition to a fully nourishing plant-based diet, with a constant focus on delicious and wholesome foods. You might even make some meals that the meat-eaters in your life will fall in love with.

Weekday breakfasts and lunches are usually designed to be grab and go. You can find my suggestions for how to tackle prep for the week in the calendar, so that you can set yourself up for success.

I design meal plans to use leftovers to make your life easier, because most of us don't have the time to cook three meals a day. If you don't like having leftovers, swap in another recipe that you enjoy.



### Members' Site

There are hundreds more healthy vegan recipes to browse in the members' site at <u>veganook.club</u>. This leaves room for flexibility, so if something in the meal plan doesn't appeal to you, swap it out for another recipe.

### As part of the online meal plan, you also have access to:

- planner, where you can add the meals from this plan to your own calendar, adjust the portions, drag & drop to suit your schedule, swap recipes if you like, and generate your own customized grocery list.
- exclusive video tutorials to show you cooking techniques and healthy tips.
- a forum so that you can ask me any questions about healthy cooking & meal planning, and share with other members.
- downloadable ebooks (like this one, as pdf files) with more info and advice.

My goal is for you to feel healthy, energized and happy by the end of this week.

Because no matter your reason for switching to plants—whether it's to get more vegetables into your diet, make health changes as per doctor's orders, minimize chronic illness and symptoms, or, like me, shrink your carbon footprint—if the taste of the food you eat doesn't excite you, then there's no way you'll be able to maintain this way of eating.

Let's get started...



# Prep Guide & Journal: Immune Boost

### **BATCH PREP**

Cook quinoa: 11/2 cups dry + 3 cups water, simmer 25-30 min Cook beets (for Tues salad): 20 min Cook sweet potatoes: 30 min (if boiled or steamed), 50 min (if baked) Make chia-quinoa bites (10 min + 30 min chill)

Make chia pudding (5 min)
Make salad + pesto rolls (20 min)
Make soup + biscuits (40 min)
Make nori snack rolls (20 min)
Make cookies (25 min)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Food Prep		Make salad (10 min) Make beet salad for tomorrow (35 min, or 15 min if beets already cooked)	Make bean dip (15 min)	Make pasta (40 min)	Make soup (30 min)	Cook rice (45 min for brown) Make macro bowl (20 min)	Make scramble (25 min)
Breakfast	Fresh Ginger Tea + Avocado & White Bean Toast	Blueberry Almond Chia Pudding + Chia-Quinoa Protein Bites	Blueberry Almond Chia Pudding + Chia-Quinoa Protein Bites	Blueberry Almond Chia Pudding + Chia-Quinoa Protein Bites	Berry Apple Ginger Smoothie + Chia-Quinoa Protein Bites	Mango Blueberry Oatmeal	Tofu Veggie Scramble
Lunch	Orange Edamame Salad + Zesty Cilantro Pesto Rolls	Orange Edamame Salad + Zesty Cilantro Pesto Rolls	Mushroom Beet Salad + Zesty Cilantro Pesto Rolls	Mushroom Beet Salad + Zesty Cilantro Pesto Rolls	Veggie Wrap with Super Green White Bean Dip	Easy Chickpea Soup	Sesame-Ginger Macro Bowl
Dinner	Curried Sweet Potato Soup + Moist Sweet Potato Biscuits	Lemony Avocado Quinoa Salad	Curried Sweet Potato Soup + Moist Sweet Potato Biscuits	Curried Sweet Potato Soup + Moist Sweet Potato Biscuits	Easy Chickpea Soup	Sesame-Ginger Macro Bowl	Curried Sweet Potato Soup + Moist Sweet Potato Biscuits
Snack	Mushroom Ginger Nori Snack Rolls	Mushroom Ginger Nori Snack Rolls	Super Green White Bean Dip + veggie sticks	Super Green White Bean Dip + veggie sticks	Brazil Nuts	Super Green White Bean Dip + veggie sticks	Almond Date Boats
Snack	Cranberry Gingerbread Quinoa Cookies	Cranberry Gingerbread Quinoa Cookies + Chai Latte	Cranberry Gingerbread Quinoa Cookies + Dairy-Free Hot Chocolate	Cranberry Gingerbread Quinoa Cookies + Chai Latte	Cranberry Gingerbread Quinoa Cookies	Cranberry Gingerbread Quinoa Cookies + Chai Latte	Cranberry Gingerbread Quinoa Cookies + Dairy-Free Hot Chocolate
Water							
Exercise							
Digestion							
Stress, Mood & Energy							
Sleep							
Smile & Gratitude							

### DAILY AVERAGE NUTRITION INFO

Calories: 1492; Total Fat: 63g; Saturated Fat: 10g; Cholesterol: 0mg; Carbohydrates: 200g; Fiber: 50g; Sugar: 71g; Protein 52g; Vitamin A: 631% DV; Vitamin C: 484% DV; Calcium 101% DV; Iron: 96% DV.



## **Grocery Shopping Tips**

Grocery shopping, and having a good grocery list, is key to sticking to a healthy way of eating. That's where you choose the foods that are going into your home.

I put together a specific shopping list to tell you exactly what you need for the week, so that you don't need to do any of the planning - just head to the store.

I've included a variety of fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, grains and beans – but I also tried not to give too many so that you don't have to hunt for too long in the store. Feel free to swap ingredients for the same quantity of other foods you like.

If you can't find a specific food on the list, or if it's out of season and too expensive, replace it with something similar. I've organized the list into categories that I hope will help you see which foods can be substituted for one another. If you don't recognize a food, check the glossary at the end of this PDF. I included all the ingredients I could think of.

If you usually shop more often than once a week, it's a good idea to buy smaller quantities of the fresh fruits and veggies on each trip to make sure that they don't go bad on you.

You'll only need a small quantity of each spice and dried herb. If you're buying spices for the first time, getting them in bulk is very economical and you can buy only a small amount.



# **Grocery List: Immune Boost**

VEGETABLES		NUTS & SEEDS	
□ Alfalfa sprouts	1 cup	□ Almonds	1 cup
	· ·	☐ Brazil nuts	1/2 cup
□ Avocado	2		
□ Beets	2	□ Cashews	2 Tbsps
☐ Bell pepper	2	☐ Chia seeds	2/3 cup
□ Broccoli	1 cup	□ Coconut	2 Tbsps
□ Cabbage	1 cup	□ Flaxseed	1/2 cup
☐ Carrots	3	□ Nut/seed butter	2 Tbsps
□ Cherry tomatoes	1/2 cup	☐ Pumpkin seeds	2 Tbsps
□ Cucumber	1	☐ Sesame seeds	2 Tbsps
□ Diced tomatoes	1 19oz can	□ Tahini	2/3 cup
□ Green onion	2	□ Walnuts	1/2 cup
□ Kale	1 bunch	DRINKS	
□ Lettuce	1 head	□ Chai tea	3 bags
☐ Mushrooms	3 1/2 cups	□ Non-dairy milk 6 cups (48	_
□ Onion	2	, ,	
□ Snow peas	1 cup	OILS, VINEGARS & CONDIME	
□ Spinach	1/2 cup	☐ Apple cider vinegar	2 Tbsps
□ Sweet potatoes	5	☐ Balsamic vinegar	3 Tbsps
□ Zucchini	1	□ Coconut oil	1/4 cup
FRUIT		□ Olive oil	3 Tbsps
□ Apple	1	☐ Pickled ginger	1 Tbsp
□ Banana	2	□ Tamari	3 Tbsps
☐ Blueberries	2 cups	☐ Toasted sesame oil	2 Tbsps
<ul> <li>□ Dried cranberries</li> </ul>	1/4 cup	DRIED SPICES & SEASONING	SS
☐ Goji berries	1/4 cup	□ Black pepper	pinch
□ Lemon	3	☐ Cayenne pepper	pinch
☐ Medjool dates	3/4 cup	□ Cinnamon	1 Tbsp
□ Orange	5	□ Cumin	1/2 Tbsp
□ Strawberries	1 cup	□ Curry powder	4 tsps
		☐ Dried basil	1 Tbsp
FRESH HERBS & SPIC		□ Dried oregano	1/2 Tbsp
☐ Fresh cilantro	1/4 cup	☐ Ground cloves	1/8 tsp
☐ Fresh garlic	5 cloves	□ Ground ginger	1/2 tsp
□ Fresh ginger	1/3 cup	□ Nutmeg	1/4 tsp
GRAINS		□ Paprika	1/2 Tbsp
□ Cooked brown rice	1 cup	□ Sea salt	pinch
□ Quinoa	1 1/2 cups	□ Turmeric	1/2 tsp
□ Rolled oats	1/2 cup	BAKING NEEDS	
□ Whole grain bread	2 slices	□ Baking powder	1 Tbsp
☐ Whole grain wrap	3	☐ Baking powder	1/2 tsp
BEANS AND LEGUME	c	☐ Cocoa powder	
		·	2 Tbsps 1/4 cup
☐ Blackeyed peas	1 14oz can (1 cup)	<ul><li>☐ Maple syrup</li><li>☐ Molasses</li></ul>	2 Tbsps
☐ Chickpeas 114☐ Edamame beans	4oz can (1 1/2 cups)		
☐ Tofu	11/2 cups	<ul><li>☐ Unrefined sugar</li><li>☐ Vanilla extract</li></ul>	1/3 cup
	1/2 cup		1 tsp
□ White beans	1 19oz can (2 cups)	□ Whole grain flour	2 cups
		SPECIALTY	
		□ Nori	2 sheet
		☐ Protein powder	1 scoop





# Fresh Ginger Tea

Prep Time: 5 min. Makes: 1 serving.

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 Tbsp fresh ginger1/4 lemon (optional)1/2 Tbsp maple syrup (optional)1/4 tsp cinnamon (optional)

- 1. Boil some water.
- 2. Grate the fresh ginger, and squeeze the juice into a mug. OR slice the ginger as thinly as possible and put into a mug.
- 3. Add the syrup, lemon and cinnamon if you want.
- 4. Pour the hot water over the ginger, and leave to steep for 2-3 minutes.

NUTRITI Per servi Calories	37	
0		ily Value*
0 g	Total Fat	0%
0 g	Saturated Fat	0%
0 mg	Cholesterol	0%
2 mg	Sodium	0%
10 g	Carbohydrates	3%
1 g	Dietary Fiber	3%
6 g	Sugar	
0 g	Protein	0%
14 IU	Vitamin A	0%
28 mg	Vitamin C	47%
21 mg	Calcium	2%
0 mg	Iron	3%





# Avocado & White Bean Toast

Prep Time: 5 min. Makes: 1 serving.

Avocado toast is a simple and satisfying breakfast alternative to peanut butter toast. Here, white beans boost the protein content. You can make this in your dorm room without toasting the bread, but it does hold the avocado better if you have access to a toaster. Have it straight up or get creative with toppings.

### **INGREDIENTS**

1/2 avocado

1/2 cup white beans cooked or canned, rinsed and drained

1 tsp lemon juice or lime juice

1 tsp lemon juice or lime juice sea salt

black pepper

2 slices whole grain bread or 1 bagel, sliced

cherry tomatoes for topping, chopped

alfalfa sprouts for topping (optional)

bell pepper any color, for topping, chopped

- In a small bowl, smash the avocado and white beans together with a fork. Drizzle with the lemon juice and
- 2. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Stir to combine and set aside.
- 3. Toast the bread. Spread half the avocado mixture on each slice. Top as desired.

NUTRITION FACTS Amount Per Serving						
Calories 4	79					
		% Da	ily Value*			
Total	Fat	15g	23%			
Saturated	Fat	2g	10%			
Polyunsatu	rated Fat	4g				
Monounsa	turated Fa	t 7g				
Sodium	571mg		24%			
Potassium	957	957mg				
Total Car	bohydrate	s 74g	25%			
Dietary	Fiber	28g	112%			
Sugars 15g	ı					
Protein	220	22g				
Vitamin	А		62%			
Vitamin	С	С				
Calcium			17%			
Iron			29%			





# Orange Edamame Salad

Prep Time: 10 min. Cook Time: 30 min. Makes: 1 serving.

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 cup lettuce torn 1/2 cup sweet potatoes 1 orange peeled and sliced 1/2 cup broccoli chopped 3/4 cup edamame beans 1 Tbsp cashews chopped

# ORANGE GINGER DRESSING

2 Tbsp tahini
1 orange zest and juice
1 Tbsp tamari
1 tsp toasted sesame oil pressed
2 tsp fresh ginger grated
pinch sea salt

- Put the sweet potato in a pot with enough water to cover, put a lid on, bring to a boil, then boil on low until the sweet potato is soft.
- Puree the dressing ingredients, or whisk the tahini and orange juice in a small bowl until thick and creamy, then add the tamari, sesame oil, ginger and salt.
- 3. Mix together all the veggies and dressing, and lay the veggies on a bed of lettuce. Top with the chopped cashews.

NUTRITION FACTS					
Per serving					
Calorie	es 439				
			% Dai	ly Value	k
Total	Fat	2	0g	31%	
Satura	ted F	at	3g	15%	
Polyunsaturated		i	Fat	1g	
Mono	unsaturate	ed	Fat	4g	
Sodiur	m	70mg		3%	
Potass	ium	1113mg		32%	
Total	Carbohy	drates	54g	18%	
Dietar	y Fibe	er	13g	52%	
Sugars	3			25g	
Protei	า	16g		32%	
Vitami	n	Α		289%	
Vitami	n	С		242%	
Calciu	m			16%	
Iron				25%	





# Cilantro Pesto Rolls

Prep Time: 10 min. Chill Time: 30 min. Makes: 8 servings.

The combination of coconut, lemon and roasted brazil nuts makes for a really rich flavor. Sprouts are one of the most nutrient-dense foods available to us, and easy and cheap to grow at home through the winter. This tucks sprouts away to get them into those who may not like them.

### **INGREDIENTS**

1/4 cup fresh cilantro chopped
1 clove fresh garlic pressed
2 Tbsp Brazil nuts ground
2 Tbsp coconut unsweetened
1 Tbsp coconut oil
pinch cayenne pepper
pinch sea salt
pinch black pepper
1 lemon zested and juiced
2 Tbsp flaxseed ground
1 Tbsp water for consistency
1 cup alfalfa sprouts or spinach
2 whole grain wrap corn if
needed for gluten-free

- Get the best flavor by buying whole brazil nuts, toasting them, and then grinding them in a coffee ginder.
- 2. Make the pesto by mixing everything up to the sprouts in a food processor, and mix thoroughly.
- Spread the pesto out over the wrap, and spread a thin layer of sprouts over the pesto.
   Roll the wrap up and place it in the fridge for 30 minutes to set.
- 4. Remove the rolls from the fridge and slice them to serve as an appetizer or along with a soup or stew.

NUTRITION FACTS Per serving Calories 91					
Calones 31		% Da	ily Value*		
Total	Fat	6g	9%		
Saturated	Fat	3g	15%		
Polyunsatu	ırated	Fat	1g		
Monounsa	turated	Fat	0.3g		
Sodium	83n	ng	3%		
Potassium	15	mg	0%		
Total Ca	rbohydrate	es 8g	3%		
Dietary	Fiber	2g	8%		
Sugars			1g		
Protein	2g		4%		
Vitamin	А		1%		
Vitamin (			5%		
Calcium			2%		
Iron			4%		





# Curried Sweet Potato Soup

Prep Time: 20 min. Cook Time: 20 min. Makes: 4 servings.

This soup is really tasty and simple, and is jam-packed with nutrients. Indian spices really pop with sweet potatoes for a delicious and comforting fall meal. Let me know what you think below.

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 2 cup sweet potatoes peeled and cubed
- 1/2 cup onion chopped
- 1 cup zucchini chopped
- 1 cup kale optional
- 1 Tbsp fresh ginger grated and juiced (optional)
- 1 Tbsp curry powder
- 1/2 tsp toasted sesame oil pinch sea salt to taste
- 2 Tbsp pumpkin seeds

- Put the sweet potato and onion in a pot with about a cup of water, a sprinkle of salt, and bring to a low boil with the lid on. Let them cook for about 15 minutes, or until the sweet potato is pretty soft. Add the zucchini to the pot, stir it in, and leave it for another 5 minutes - or longer if you want the zucchini to be really soft.
- 2. Puree the vegetables, along with the k ale if you want to include it and maximize the nutrients in this soup. Add water as you need to (including the cooking water from the sweet potatoes) to get the consistency you want for your soup. You can use a hand blender, but a food processor or full blender is better if you're using the kale.
- Season the soup with curry powder, or make your own with Indian spices like cumin, coriander and turmeric, and a pinch of salt. Fresh ginger adds lots of flavor and nutrients.
- 4. Serve topped with some pumpkin seeds.

NUTRITION FACTS Per serving Calories 141					
		% Dai	ly Value*		
Total	Fat	5g	8%		
Saturated	Fat	1g	5%		
Polyunsatu	rated	Fat	2g		
Monounsat	urated	Fat	1g		
Sodium	49m	g	2%		
Potassium	481r	ng	14%		
Total Car	bohydrate	s 22g	7%		
Dietary	Fiber	5g	20%		
Sugars			4g		
Protein	5g		10%		
Vitamin A			241%		
Vitamin	С		47%		
Calcium			8%		
Iron			13%		





# Sweet Potato Biscuits

Prep Time: 60 min. Cook Time: 10 min. Makes: 12 biscuits.

It's no secret that I'm crazy about sweet potato, and these biscuits are another way to add them to a recipe. It was given to me by a friend a few years ago and although it wasn't vegan, it has easily been adapted to it!

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 small sweet potato
3 Tbsp melted coconut oil
1 Tbsp maple syrup
1 cup whole grain flour
2 tsp baking powder
pinch salt

### **DIRECTIONS**

- Bake the sweet potato at 350F for about 45 minutes until tender. Allow it to cool, then remove the pulp and mash. Measure out 1 cup. Combine the mashed sweet potato in bowl with half the coconut oil and all of the maple syrup.
- 2. Mix the dry ingredients in a separate bowl, then add to the potato mixture and blend well with a fork.
- On a floured board, pat the mixture out into a 1/2 inch thick circle and cut into 1 inch rounds, or simply drop spoonfuls of dough.
   Put them onto greased or parchment-lined cookie sheet, then brush each with some of the melted coconut oil.
- 4. Bake at 375F for 10 minutes, or until lightly golden on top. Serve hot.

### 

### **Hints & Tricks**

These are very quick and easy to make with leftover baked sweet potato, so next time you're making something in the oven just throw in an extra sweet potato. These biscuits freeze well, but should be thawed before reheating.





# Mushroom Ginger Nori Snack Rolls

Prep Time: 15 min. Cook Time: 5-10 min. Makes: 2 servings.

These nori snack rolls are the perfect answer for a salty, savory snack that's healthy instead of relying on chips – and they're really quick to put together!

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 2 sheet nori
- 1 Tbsp almond butter or other nut butter
- 1 Tbsp tamari soy sauce
- 1 cup mushrooms sliced
- 1/2 cup carrots grated, optional
- 1 Tbsp pickled ginger

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350F.
- 2. Mix together the nut butter and tamari, until smooth.
- 3. Lay a nori roll out on a rolling mat, and spread the nut butter mixture at the far end, leaving enough space to seal the roll.
- 4. Lay a row of mushroom slices, grated carrot and ginger along the near end and roll up.
- 5. Put the rolls in a oven for 10-15 min or in a toaster oven on toast/broil for 3-4 min.
- 6. Slice the rolls into 3 smaller pieces and serve as a snack or an appetizer.

NUTRITIO	N FACTS	;		
Per serving	ı			
Calories 79	)			
		% E	aily Va	lue*
TotalFat	5g		8%	
SaturatedF	at C	).5g	3%	
Polyunsatu	rated	Fat	1g	
Monounsat	urated	Fat	3g	
Sodium	650m	ıg	27%	
Potassium	173	mg	5%	
Total Carb	ohydrat	es 7g	2%	
Dietary	Fiber	2g	8%	
Sugars			2g	
Protein	3g		6%	
VitaminA			126%	
VitaminC			7%	
Calcium			4%	
Iron			5%	





# Quinoa Cranberry Cookies

Prep Time: 30 min. Chill Time: 15 min. Makes: 16 cookies.

Quinoa cookies create such great texture - and nutrition. So much good stuff packed into these ones - quinoa, tahini, flax, cinnamon - to show you it is possible to make healthy cookies.

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 1/2 cups cooked quinoa
1 cup banana mashed
1/4 cup tahini
1/4 cup unrefined sugar
1/4 cup flaxseed ground
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda
2 tsp cinnamon, optional

- 1 cup whole grain flour can grind rolled oats to make flour
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries, or raisins
- 1/4 cup non-dairy chocolate chips (optional)

### **OPTIONAL ADDITIONS**

- 1/4 cup non-dairy chocolate chips
- 1 tsp dried lavender
- 1 Tbsp molasses, along with 1 Tbsp gingerbread or pumpkin pie spices (ginger, nutmeg, cloves, allspice)

# 

### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
- Mash the banana, and mix in all the ingredients up to the flour until thoroughly combined.
- Mix in the flour until just combined, then fold in the dried cranberries and any other additions.
- 4. Spoon the mixture onto a baking sheet lined with parchment or a silicone sheet, and put in the oven for about 15-20 minutes or until browned around the edges.

### **Hints & Tricks**

Note: Cook the quinoa by putting the dry grain in a pot with twice the amount of water and a pinch of salt, bring to a boil then simmer covered for 25 minutes. To make 11/2 cups cooked you would need 1/2 cup dry, or you can make more to have leftovers for dinner.





# Blueberry Almond Chia Pudding

Prep Time: 5 min. Chill Time: 30 min. Makes: 3 servings.

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 11/2 cups non-dairy milk
- 4 Tbsp chia seeds whole or ground
- 1 Tbsp unrefined sugar or 10-15 drops liquid stevia, optional
- 11/2 cup blueberries
- 3 Tbsp almonds

### **DIRECTIONS**

- Mix together the non-dairy milk, chia seeds and sweetener (if using) and pour into 3 small bowls.
- 2. Chill in the fridge for about 30 minutes, then serve one bowl topped with 1/2 cup blueberries and 1 Tbsp almonds.

### 

### **Hints & Tricks**

If this isn't filling enough, make some oatmeal as well, as a base layer, and top it with the chia pudding, blueberries and almonds.





# Chia-Quinoa Protein Bites

Prep Time: 10 min. Chill Time: 30 min. Makes: 8 bites.

### **INGREDIENTS**

1/2 cup medjool dates pitted1/2 cup walnuts or sunflower seeds

4 Tbsp chia seeds and/or hemp seeds

1 cup cooked quinoa 1 scoop protein powder optional 1/4 cup goji berries optional

### **DIRECTIONS**

- Put everything in a food processor and pulse until it comes together in a sticky mixture.
- 2. Form into balls and lay out on a lined tray or plate, and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.

# | Pote |

### **Hints & Tricks**

Add a sprinkle of cocoa nibs for a little crunch, or a bit of mint extract for a minty fresh finish.





# Lemony Avocado Quinoa Salad

Prep Time: 10 min. Makes: 1 serving.

This is a simple, savory, creamy soup. The recipe calls for curry powder and a couple extra spices, but you can use whatever seasoning you like, so if you prefer another flavor just switch it in.

### **INGREDIENTS**

3/4 cup cooked quinoa 1/2 cup spinach 1/2 cup cucumber 1/2 cup carrots 1/2 cup avocado 1 clove fresh garlic 1/2 lemon

### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Chop the veggies, grating the carrot if you want it easier to digest.
- 2. Mash or puree the avocado with the garlic (pressed) and lemon until smooth. Add some water to make more of a dressing if you like.
- 3. Top the quinoa with the veggies and the dressing.

### **NUTRITION FACTS** Per serving Calories 380 % Daily Value\* SaturatedFat MonounsaturatedFat 7q 3% 22% TotalCarbohydrates 55g 18% 52% DietaryFiber 7g Protein 22% 246% VitaminA VitaminC 54% Calcium 9% 22%

### **Hints & Tricks**

Add a little pinch of cayenne or chili powder to the avocado mixture to give this some spice and help stimulate your digestion.





# Chai Latte

Prep Time: 10 min. Makes: 1 latte.

Chai lattes in coffee shops are made with chai-flavored syrup. You can make a more flavorful and wholesome version by using actual chai tea. Bump it up a notch by adding some fresh ginger juice.

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 bag chai tea 1/2 cup non-dairy milk 1/2 Tbsp unrefined sugar\* 1/2 tsp vanilla extract\* \*OR replace both with 6 drops vanilla stevia

### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Boil some water, pour it over a bag of chai tea (fill the mug about halfway, leaving room for milk) and leave to steep for 2-3 minutes.
- While that steeps, heat up some non-dairy milk and use a frother to increase its volume.
   Add the vanilla and sweetener here, unless you're using sweetened and/or vanillaflavored milk.
- 3. Pour the milk into the tea.

### **NUTRITION FACTS** Per serving Calories 48 % Daily Value\* 0 mg Cholestero 0% Sodium 3% 3% 1 g Dietary Fiber 2% 4 g 1% 5% 0% Vitamin C 23% 3%

### **Hints & Tricks**

You can also do this with Earl Grey tea, for a London Fog, or with coffee for a regular or decaf latte. Try different flavors of stevia drops, like hazelnut or chocolate, for flavored lattes.





# Mushroom Beet Salad with Orange Balsamic Dressing

Prep Time: 10 min. Cook Time: 25 min. Makes: 2 servings.

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 cup mushrooms
pinch sea salt
1 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
1 cup beets root portion only
2 cup lettuce green or red
1/2 cup almonds toasted and chopped

### **DRESSING**

- 1 cup orange zested and juiced (about 1/4of juice)
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 Tbsp balsamic vinegar pinch sea salt

- Slice the mushrooms, put them in a covered container, sprinkle with sea salt and balsamic vinegar and shake. Leave them aside to marinate – the longer the better!
- 2. Put the beets whole, unpeeled, into a pot with a small amount of water. Bring to a boil, and cook the beets for about 20 minutes.
- 3. Prepare the dressing by combining the orange juice, zest, oil, vinegar and salt in a jar and shake, or a bowl and whisk.
- Toast the almonds at 350 for about 5 minutes, or until you can start to smell them.
   Remove them from the oven immediately.
- When the beets are soft when pierced with a skewer or fork, remove them from the pot and allow them to cool. Peel and slice them into thick bite-size chunks.
- Rinse and dry the lettuce, and then tear it into bite-size pieces into a large salad bowl.
   Add the mushrooms along with the beets to the bowl. Pour the dressing over the salad and toss. Save any leftovers in the fridge for your next salad.

NUTRITION FACTS						
Per serving						
Calories 438						
		% Daily	/ Value*			
Total	Fat 3	3g	51%			
Saturated	Fat	3g	15%			
Polyunsatu	urated	Fat	6g			
Monounsa	turated	Fat	22g			
Sodium	67mg	l	3%			
Potassium	875m	875mg				
Total Ca	rbohydrates	29g	10%			
Dietary	Fiber	9g	36%			
Sugars			18g			
Protein	12g		24%			
Vitamin	Α		58%			
Vitamin	С		98%			
Calcium			15%			
Iron			16%			





# Super Green White Bean Dip

Prep Time: 10 min. Makes: 4 servings.

White beans + kale = awesome protein-rich spread for wraps, sandwiches, crackers, cucumber slices...

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 11/2 cup white beans cooked or canned, drained and rinsed
- 1 lemon juice and zest, or 11/2 Tbsp white wine or apple cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp nut/seed butter
- 1 cup kale or more if you like
- 1 tsp curry powder (mild or hot, whichever you prefer)
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp paprika smoked or regular
- 1/4 tsp sea salt to taste

- 1. Put everything in a food processor and pulse until it comes together.
- 2. Taste for seasoning, adding more spices, vinegar or salt to your tastes.

NUTRITION FACTS Per serving Calories 86						
		% Daily	Value*			
TotalFat	2g	3%				
SaturatedFa	t 0.3	g 2%				
Polyunsatur	ated F	at 0.1g				
Monounsatu	urated	Fat 0.1g				
Sodium	231mg	10%				
Potassium	124m	g 4%				
Total Carbo	ohydrates	13g 4%				
Dietary F	iber 5	g 20%				
Sugars		<b>1</b> g				
Protein	5g	10%				
VitaminA		57%				
VitaminC		46%				
Calcium		8%				
Iron		10%				





# Dairy-Free Hot Chocolate

Prep Time: 10 min. Makes: 1 serving.

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 1 tbsp cocoa powder or pure solid chocolate or carob powder
- 1 Tbsp maple syrup or 1 tsp stevia
- 1 cup water boiling
- 1 cup non-dairy milk

- Put the cocoa and maple syrup in a mug and stir until it makes a paste. Pour in the water and/or non-dairy milk and stir until fully combined.
- 2. Add the non-dairy milk and stir again to mix.

Per serving				
Calories 94	1			
		% Da	aily Value	
Total	Fat	3g	5%	
Saturated	Fat	0.4g	2%	
Polyunsatu	rated	Fat	1g	
Monounsat	turated	Fat	2g	
Sodium	168r	ng	7%	
Potassium	158	3mg	5%	
Total Ca	rbohydrate	es 17	g 6%	
Dietary	Fiber	3g	12%	
Sugars			12g	
Protein	29	I	4%	
Vitamin	А		10%	
Calcium			47%	
Iron			7%	





# Berry Apple Ginger Smoothie

Prep Time: 5 min. Makes: 1 serving.

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 1 cup strawberries and/or raspberries
- 1 apple cored and chopped
- 1 banana
- 1 cup non-dairy milk optional
- 1 Tbsp fresh ginger peeled
- 1 Tbsp chia seeds or ground flax, optional

### **DIRECTIONS**

Puree everything in a blender until smooth, adding enough water for the consistency you enjoy in your smoothie.

NUTRITION FACTS Per serving Calories 317					
		% Da	ily Value*		
Total	Fat	7g	11%		
Saturated	Fat	0.1g	1%		
Polyunsatu	ırated	Fat	3g		
Monounsa	turated	Fat	2g		
Sodium	163r	ng	7%		
Potassium	853	Bmg	24%		
Total Car	bohydrate	es 64g	21%		
Dietary	Fiber	16g	64%		
Sugars			41g		
Protein	6g		12%		
Vitamin			13%		
Vitamin	С		166%		
Calcium			56%		
Iron			14%		





# Veggie Wrap/Sandwich

Prep Time: 10 min. Makes: 1 serving.

Pair this simple wrap with your choice of salad dressing, bean dip, veggie burger, or anything that appeals to you.

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 large whole grain wrap, pita or bread 1/2 cup hummus 1/2 cup cherry tomatoes chopped 1/2 cup cucumber chopped 1/2 cup bell pepper chopped 1/2 cup carrots grated 1/2 cup lettuce or sprouts

### **DIRECTIONS**

Arrange everything down the centre of the wrap, along with a sauce or dip. Fold in the ends and roll together.

If you're taking this to go, tinfoil makes a sturdy wrap to keep it together. Otherwise, I often toss the salad together in a container and take the wrap and lettuce on the side to assemble when I eat.

NUTRITION FACTS						
Per serving						
Calories 201						
		%	Daily \	/alue*		
Total	Fat	4g	6%			
Saturated	d Fat	1g	5%			
Polyunsa	turated	Fat	0.3g			
Monouns	saturated	Fat	0.1g			
Sodium	383r	ng	16%			
Potassiu	n 654	1mg	19%			
Total Carbohydrates 40g 13%						
Dietary	Fiber	9g	36%			
Sugars			10g			
Protein	8g		16%			
Vitamin	Α		279%			
Vitamin	С		261%			
Calcium			7%			
Iron			14%			

### **Hints & Tricks**

If your fillings are particularly moist, toss them together as a salad and take the wrap on the side, to assemble when you're ready to eat.





# Chickpea Noodle Soup

Prep Time: 10 min. Cook Time: 20 min. Makes: 2 bowls.

This soup is easy and quick to put together, as well as super tasty, with some wonderful rich flavors. It's perfect for a quick weeknight dinner and will make enough to take for lunch the next day. If you're cooking for two or more, the recipe will double or triple easily.

### **INGREDIENTS**

1/2 onion, chopped

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 cup mushrooms, chopped

1-2 tsp olive oil or veggie broth pinch sea salt

1 Tbsp dried basil

1/2 Tbsp dried oregano

1-2 Tbsp balsamic vinegar or red wine

14-19 oz can diced tomatoes

14-19 oz can chickpeas (1 1/2 - 2 cups cooked)

2 cups water (more or less) 1-2 cups kale, chopped

another pinch sea salt

### **DIRECTIONS**

- Saute the onion, garlic and mushrooms in a soup pot with the olive oil (or broth) and salt until softened.
- 2. Add the dried herbs, then the vinegar or wine to deglaze, then pour in the tomatoes and chickpeas. Stir to combine, adding enough water to get the soup or stew consistency you like.
- Add the chopped kale and another pinch of salt, then cover and let simmer for 5-15 minutes.

NUTRITION FACTS						
Per serving						
Calories 363						
	% Daily Valu			ily Value		
Total		Fat	6g	9%		
Satura	ited	Fat	1g	5%		
Polyunsaturated		Fat	2g			
Mono	unsat	turated	Fat	3g		
Sodiu	m	448m	ıg	19%		
Potass	sium	942	mg	27%		
Total	Car	bohydrate	s 62g	21%		
Dietar	у	Fiber	15g	60%		
Sugar	s			18g		
Protei	n	18g		36%		
Vitami	in	Α		230%		
Vitami	in	С	156%			
Calciu	m			24%		
Iron				40%		

### **Hints & Tricks**

This is delicious topped with a tablespoon of toasted walnuts and a sprinkle of nutritional yeast.





# Basic Blueberry Oatmeal

Prep Time: 5 min. Makes: 1 serving.

This makes a perfect to-go breakfast if you make it in a travel mug or small thermos. Or simply put the ingredients in a small container and make it when you arrive at work or school. It's also ready quickly if you eat at home while rushing to get ready.

### **INGREDIENTS**

1/2 cup rolled oats, dry 1/4 tsp cinnamon, optional 1/2 cup non-dairy milk 1 Tbsp flaxseed, ground 1/2 cup blueberries

### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Mix the oats, cinnamon (if using) and flax together in a bowl.
- 2. Boil some water, and pour over the oats.
- 3. Let them soak about 5 min, and top with the fruit and milk.
- 4. You can also let the oats soak with cold or room temperature water, it just needs longer to soften half an hour to overnight.

### 

### **Hints & Tricks**

If you want a bit more sweetness, drizzle with maple syrup or a sprinkle of coconut sugar.





# Sesame-Ginger Macro Bowl

Prep Time: 20 min. Makes: 2 servings.

Here's a yummy sesame-ginger dressed bowl with all the plant food groups represented, in proportion and at an average portion size. Scale up or down, based on your energy needs. Choose the bowl size that works for you, and fill it with wonderful foods to fuel your body.

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 1 cup cooked brown rice
- 1 cup cooked blackeyed peas
- 1 cup red cabbage, sliced
- 1 bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 cup snow or snap peas, trimmed and sliced in half width-wise
- 2 Tbsp green onion, chopped
- 1 cup kale or spinach, chopped
- 1 avocado, thinly sliced
- 2 Tbsp sesame seeds (white or black)

### **DRESSING INGREDIENTS**

- 2 Tbsp tahini (or almond or cashew butter)
- 2 Tbsp rice or apple cider vinegar
- 1 tsp toasted sesame oil
- 1 Tbsp fresh ginger, grated then juiced

pinch-1/4 tsp salt, to taste

### **NUTRITION FACTS** Per serving

Calories 585					
	% Da	aily Value			
30 g	Total Fat	46%			
4 g	Saturated Fat	22%			
0 mg	Cholesterol	0%			
52 mg	Sodium	2%			
67 g	Carbohydrates	22%			
20 g	Dietary Fiber	79%			
10 g	Sugar				
19 g	Protein	29%			
7900 IU	Vitamin A	172%			
162 mg	Vitamin C	270%			
312 mg	Calcium	31%			
7 mg	Iron	53%			

### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Make sure your rice and blackeyed peas are cooked in advance.
- 2. Heat a pan to medium-high, and saute the cabbage with water, broth or olive or un-toasted sesame oil. Once it's softened lightly, add the bell pepper. Then add the snow/snap peas, the kale or spinach, and green onion last, to warm for a minute, until it just wilts, before turning off the heat.
- 3. Make the dressing by whisking together the dressing ingredients, or pureeing in a small blender, adding about 2-3 Tbsp water as needed to make a creamy consistency.
- 4. Arrange your bowl, with the vegetables on one side, the rice in one quarter, the peas in the other quarter.
- 5. Top with the sliced avocado, a long drizzle of dressing and a sprinkle of sesame seeds.

### **Hints & Tricks**

Make a double (or triple) batch of the dressing, so that you can whip up an easy salad or bowl.





# Tofu Veggie Scramble

Prep Time: 5 min. Cook Time: 20 min. Makes: 1 serving.

### **INGREDIENTS**

1/2 onion chopped
1 tsp olive oil or 1 Tbsp
vegetable broth
1/2 cup mushrooms chopped
1/2 cup bell pepper chopped
1/2 cup kale chopped
1/2 tsp paprika smoked paprika
for best flavor
1/2 tsp cumin
1/2 tsp turmeric
1/2 cup tofu firm

### **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. Drain and pat the tofu to dry it.
- 2. Saute the vegetables, starting with the onion and saving the kale for last, in olive oil, vegetable broth or water. Add a pinch of sea salt to help them soften.
- 3. Add the spices, toss to coat, then add the tofu, breaking it up with a spatula.
- 4. Serve warm, along with a rice cake with tahini if you like.

### **NUTRITION FACTS** Per serving Calories 224 % Daily Value\* Monounsaturated 4g 2% 7% 24% 8g Protein 30% 162% 315% Vitamin Calcium 21% 28%

### **Hints & Tricks**

Try with different vegetables and different seasonings to make a new creation each time.





# Almond Date Boats

Prep Time: 2 min. Makes: 1 serving.

This isn't much of a "recipe" but is one of those snack ideas that deserves to be given a moment to appreciate. There's something about the combo of super-sweet dates with mineral- and healthy fat-rich nuts that makes it a winner.

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 2 Tbsp dates
- 1 Tbsp almonds (or walnuts or cashews or sunflower seeds)

### **DIRECTIONS**

1. Take the pit out of the dates and replace with almonds. Or - just eat the dates and eat the almonds!

# NUTRITION FACTS Per serving Calories 169 % Daily Value\* Total Fat 12% Saturated Fat 2g Monounsaturated Fat 5g Sodium 1mg 9% Total Carbohydrates 25g 8% Dietary Fiber 4g 16% Sugars 19g Protein 4g 8% VitaminC 0.2% Calcium 5% Irred 5% Irred 5% Irred 5% Calcium 5% Irred 5% Irred 10 2 2 2 2 <th co

### **Hints & Tricks**

This is also lovely with almond (or another nut) butter. If you feel hungry and need something ASAP, this is a great fall-back snack.



## **Congrats!**

You've now seen how to nourish your body with healthy food. Even if you didn't stick to everything exactly, or at all - if you ate more vegetables than you did last month that's a step in the right direction. And if you had fun making some healthy food, and enjoyed eating it, that's a success.

You should have noticed at least a slight change in your sleep, digestion, energy level, and mood. Seeing and feeling those connections between what you eat and how you feel are great ways to stay motivated to keep eating healthy when faced with temptations.

Note which recipes you liked, what prep you found easy to work into your daily routine, and anything else you found useful. Pick out a few meals that you really enjoy, and those can become your new go-tos: those meals you can whip up any day of the week in no time flat. Make them again and again, changing up the vegetables and seasonings to keep it interesting.

When making food for an average weeknight, stick with the basics—steamed veggies and rice with tahini dressing, baked sweet potato with avocado dip, or just a super simple soup with veggies and lentils in a pot with whatever seasonings you like. Don't make this hard on yourself; it doesn't need to be complicated.

After following a plan like this, a lot of people start saying to themselves, "I've been so good! I deserve a treat." You definitely do, you've done well. But keep the big picture in mind, and try to think about healthy options to indulge your cravings, or reward yourself with a spa day or a movie night.

Don't stop here - get yourself set for next week, either improvising with your own ideas, using ideas from this plan and recipes on my site, or check out my other meal plans for full strategies of what and how much to buy, cook and eat.

And most importantly, share a meal or a recipe with a friend or loved one, so you can show them how delicious it can be to eat in a healthy, sustainable, and compassionate way. Just don't tell them it's plant-based until after they finish eating and tell you how delicious it tastes.

I'd love to hear how you found this plan! What worked, what could have been better, if you're struggling with anything or just want some support or accountability.

Please email me at heather@heathernicholds.com to let me know. I'm here.

