

Summer Veggie & Wild Rice Bake

- 1 (6 ounce box) wild rice with herbs and seasoning
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium eggplant, peeled and diced
- **2** yellow squash, cut lengthwise, sliced crosswise
- **1** green pepper, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- **6 cloves** garlic, minced **3-5** tomatoes, coarsely
- **3-5** tomatoes, coarsel chopped
- ½ **cup** coarsely chopped fresh basil
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup low fat shredded Italian cheese blend

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Prepare wild rice in saucepan according to package directions. Remove from heat; drain excess water; stir in packet seasonings. Heat oil to medium high in large skillet. Add eggplant, squash, pepper and onion; stir and cook 5 minutes or until tender crisp. Stir in garlic and cook 1 minute. Add tomatoes, basil, salt and pepper; stir occasionally and cook 2 minutes until heated through. Stir in wild rice and spoon into a 9-by-13 inch baking dish

that has been coated with cooking spray. **Top** with cheese and **cover** with aluminum foil. **Bake** 35 minutes or until bubbly. **Uncover** and **bake** an additional 5 minutes.

Yield: 16

Serving Size: ½ cup

Nutritional Analysis:

90 calories, 2.5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 469 mg sodium, 13 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 3 g sugars, 4 g protein.

Kentucky Eggplant

SEASON: Late June to October.

NUTRITION FACTS: Eggplant contains small amounts of several important vitamins that are needed daily. It is very low in sodium and calories, with only 15 calories for a half cup serving.

SELECTION: Select firm, heavy eggplant with smooth, shiny, deep purple skin. Choose medium size eggplant, about 3 to 4 inches in diameter.

STORAGE: Store soon after harvest or purchase in the vegetable crisper in the refrigerator. Use within one week.

PREPARATION: Eggplant is a versatile vegetable and can be baked, broiled, grilled, fried,

stuffed or used in a variety of casseroles in combination with other vegetables. It works well with tomatoes, garlic, onions and cheese. One pound equals 3 cups diced. Eggplant should be peeled before preparation, unless it is very young and tender.

To broil or grill: Cut into three-fourth inch slices and brush with margarine or Italian dressing. Broil or grill for about 5 minutes on each side, until eggplant is tender and browned. Remove from heat and sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese.

To season: Use marjoram, oregano, allspice, chili powder, curry powder, garlic, basil or rosemary.

KENTUCKY EGGPLANT

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

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Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

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