

Sweet & Spicy Butternut Squash

2 medium butternut squash

1 tablespoon olive oil

¼ teaspoon kosher salt¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/4 cup honey

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Wash squash and pierce the skin of each with a fork in several places. Place both squash in a microwave oven.

Cook on high setting for 4-5 minutes. Place squash on a cutting board and cut ½ inch off both ends. Cut squash in half lengthwise and remove seeds and pulp. Peel off the skin using a sharp vegetable peeler. Cut the squash into ½ inch cubes. Place the squash cubes in a large mixing bowl. Add olive oil, kosher salt, cayenne pepper and cinnamon. Toss to coat.

Spread the seasoned squash cubes on a greased baking sheet. **Roast** for 40 minutes or until fork tender, **turning** after 20 minutes. **Remove** from oven and let **sit** for 5 minutes. **Warm** honey in a microwavable dish and **drizzle** over the squash.

Yield: 12, 1/2 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis:

60 calories, 1 g fat, 0 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 50 mg sodium, 14 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 7 g sugar, 1 g protein.

Kentucky Winter Squash

SEASON: August through October. **NUTRITION FACTS:** Winter squash, which includes acorn squash, butternut squash, pumpkin, and other varieties, is low in fat and sodium and an excellent source of vitamin A and fiber.

SELECTION: Winter squash should be heavy for its size with a hard, tough rind that is free of blemishes or soft spots.

STORAGE: Store it in a cool, dry place and use it within 1 month.

PREPARATION:

To steam: Wash, peel, and remove seeds. Cut squash into 2-inch cubes or quarter, leaving rind on (it will remove easily after cooking). Bring 1 inch of water to a boil in a saucepan and place squash on a rack or basket in the pan. Do not immerse it in water. Cover the pan tightly and

steam the squash 30-40 minutes or until tender.

To microwave: Wash squash and cut it lengthwise. Place it in a baking dish and cover the dish with plastic wrap. Microwave until tender, using these quidelines:

- Acorn squash: ½ squash, 5-8 minutes; 1 squash, 8½-11½ minutes.
- Butternut squash: 2 pieces, 3-4¹/₂ minutes.
- **Hubbard squash:** (¹/₂-pound pieces) 2 pieces, 46¹/₂ minutes.

To bake: Wash squash and cut it lengthwise. Smaller squash can be cut in half; larger squash should be cut into portions. Remove seeds and place squash in a baking dish. Bake at 400°F for 1 hour or until tender. Seeds can be toasted at 350°F for 20 minutes.

KENTUCKY WINTER SQUASH

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

November 2017

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

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