Heart-Healthy Plant-Based Menu

- > One-Pan Mexican Quinoa
- ➤ Oatmeal Banana Cookies

Nutrition Facts	
Serving: 1 meal	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 547	
Total Fat 15 g	
Saturated Fat 4 g	
Monounsaturated Fat 7 g	
Polyunsaturated Fat 2 g	
Trans Fat 0 g	
Cholesterol 0 mg	
Sodium 477 mg	
Potassium 988 mg	
Total Carbohydrate 87 g	
Dietary Fiber 14 g	
Sugars 17 g	
Added Sugars 4 g	
Protein 18 g	
Vitamin A	12%
Vitamin C	40%
Calcium	13%
Iron	40%

One-Pan Mexican Quinoa

Makes 4 servings

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 4-ounce can diced green chiles
- 1 cup quinoa, rinsed in a fine-mesh sieve
- 1 cup low-sodium vegetable broth
- 1 15-ounce can no-salt-added black beans, drained and rinsed (such as Eden Organic)
- 1 14.5-ounce can no-salt-added fire-roasted diced tomatoes (such as Muir Glen)
- 1 cup corn kernels, fresh or frozen (thawed, if frozen)
- 1 teaspoon chili powder (see notes)
- 1 teaspoon salt-free taco seasoning mix (see notes)
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- ¼ teaspoon salt (optional, see notes)
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- Juice of 1 lime
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- ½ cup prepared guacamole (e.g., Wholly Guacamole) or 1 avocado, halved, seeded, peeled, and diced
- ½ cup pico de gallo

Preparation

- 1. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion, and cook, stirring, until translucent. Add garlic and green chiles, and cook, stirring frequently, until fragrant, about 1 minute.
- 2. Stir in quinoa, vegetable broth, black beans, tomatoes, corn, chili powder, taco seasoning mix, cumin, smoked paprika, salt (if using), and black pepper. Bring to a boil; cover, reduce heat, and simmer until quinoa is cooked through, about 20 minutes.
- 3. Stir in lime juice and cilantro just before serving. Top with guacamole (or avocado) and pico de gallo.

Nutrition Facts	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 429	
Total Fat 12 g	
Saturated Fat 2 g	
Monounsaturated Fat 7 g	
Polyunsaturated Fat 2 g	
Trans Fat 0 g	
Cholesterol 0 mg	
Sodium 400 mg	
Potassium 839 mg	
Total Carbohydrate 64 g	
Dietary Fiber 11 g	
Sugars 7 g	
Added Sugars 0 g	
Protein 16 g	
Vitamin A	12%
Vitamin C	36%
Calcium	12%
Iron	35%

Notes:

- Chili powder is a seasoning blend made up of dried chilies and other spices be sure to check the sodium content as different brands vary widely. In the recipe analysis, we used Morton & Bassett chili powder, which contains no sodium.
- Use the salt-free taco seasoning mix recipe that follows, or purchase a salt-free Mexican seasoning such as Penzey's Arizona Dreaming Seasoning or Mrs. Dash Taco Seasoning Mix.
- Omitting the salt from the recipe and using fresh avocado instead of prepared guacamole reduces the sodium to 155 mg per serving.

Taco Seasoning Mix

Makes about 1 cup; serving size is 2 teaspoons

A 2-teaspoon serving of prepackaged taco seasoning mix contains almost 400 milligrams of sodium, not to mention partially hydrogenated oil, which adds harmful *trans* fats. Keep a batch of homemade salt-free taco seasoning mix on hand to add a zesty flavor to fish, chicken, turkey, whole grains, beans, vegetables, or tofu.

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons chili powder
- 4 tablespoons garlic powder
- 4 tablespoons paprika
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoon red pepper flakes (use less for a milder version, or omit entirely)
- 1 ½ teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 ½ teaspoons black pepper

Preparation

Put all ingredients in a small bowl and combine well. Taste and adjust seasonings as desired. Store in an airtight container.

Nutrition Facts	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 10	
Total Fat 0 g	
Saturated Fat 0 g	
Monounsaturated Fat 0 g	
Polyunsaturated Fat 0 g	
Trans Fat 0 g	
Cholesterol 0 mg	
Sodium 2 mg	
Potassium 51 mg	
Total Carbohydrate 2 g	
Dietary Fiber 1 g	
Sugars 0 g	
Added Sugars 0 g	
Protein 0 g	
Vitamin A	12%
Vitamin C	0%
Calcium	1%
Iron	2%

Oatmeal Banana Cookies

Makes 16 cookies; serving size is 2 cookies

Ingredients

- 1 cup old-fashioned rolled oats
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom (optional)
- ¼ teaspoon sea salt
- 2 ripe medium bananas, mashed (about 1 cup)
- ¼ cup unsweetened dried blueberries
- ¼ cup dark chocolate chips, chopped

Preparation

Preheat oven to 350° F. Lightly coat baking sheet with nonstick cooking spray; set aside.

Combine oats, cinnamon, cardamom (if using), and salt in a medium bowl; mix well. Add bananas, dried blueberries, and chocolate chips; mix well.

Measure 1 rounded tablespoon of dough and drop onto baking sheet; repeat with remaining dough, spacing about 2 inches apart. Gently flatten cookies with a spatula.

Nutrition Facts	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 118	
Total Fat 3 g	
Saturated Fat 2 g	
Monounsaturated Fat 0 g	
Polyunsaturated Fat 0 g	
Trans Fat 0 g	
Cholesterol 0 mg	
Sodium 77 mg	
Potassium 149 mg	
Total Carbohydrate 23 g	
Dietary Fiber 3 g	
Sugars 10 g	
Added Sugars 4 g	
Protein 2 g	
Vitamin A	0%
Vitamin C	4%
Calcium	1%
Iron	5%

Bake for about 14 to 15 minutes or until firm. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

Notes: To eliminate all saturated fat and added sugar from this recipe, omit the chocolate chips.