Kale Salad with Pumpkin Ginger Dressing (ME) from Urban Sacred Garden



Kale has become one of my favorite vegetables over the past year. My food friends and I have debated "massaging" Kale. Working the leaves with your fingers makes them soft and easy to eat. But I have found that the same is true when you toss Kale with a homemade Vinaigrette and let it sit for a bit. The oil and vinegar help break down and soften the leaves, and the end result is delicious. I'll post a couple Kale salad ideas in the weeks to come. It is a hearty green that grows great in cool weather, even in the early frost we're getting this year. Try it out for yourself and enjoy! Yield: About 8 Servings "ME" indicates a healthier Mindful Eating option.

INGREDIENTS

1/2 Cup Pepitas (Pumpkin Seed Kernels), toasted

1 Large Bunch of Kale (I recommend Lacinato/Tuscan/Dinosaur), largest vein of stem removed and rolled long ways and cut into strips down the stem

2 Carrots, shaved into strips with a peeler

2 Ears Fresh Corn, removed from cob*

5 Tbsp Extra Virgin Olive Oil

2 Tbsp Pumpkin Puree, Fresh or Canned

2 Tbsp Apple Cider Vinegar

1 Tbsp Fresh Ginger, finely chopped

1/2 Shallot, finely chopped

Freshly Ground Sea Salt

Freshly Ground Black Pepper

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Scatter Pepitas on a baking sheet lined with foil. Place in the oven and bake for about 15 minutes until seeds start to puff a little and become golden. Do not over cook. Keep an eye on them as they will start to burn at a certain point.
- 2. Prepare Kale, Carrots and Corn and put in a large bowl. Set aside.
- 3. In a small food processor combine Olive Oil, Pumpkin, Vinegar, Ginger and Shallot until smooth. Add Salt and Pepper to taste, pulsing between additions to blend. Taste and add more if needed.
- 4. Pour dressing over Kale mixture in the large bowl and toss together so veggies are thoroughly covered with the Pumpkin Vinaigrette. Add Salt and Pepper to taste, if needed.
- 5. Leave roasted Pepitas off until you're ready to serve. Just set them aside, and toss into the salad before serving.
- 6. Cover the salad and keep in the refrigerator until ready to serve. Serve cold or at room temperature. Enjoy!

^{*}You can also substitute 3/4 Cup thawed frozen Corn.