## **Butternut Squash Soup**



Makes 6-8 servings Total time: 50 minutes

**INGREDIENTS:** 

2 cups vegetable stock 4 cloves garlic, peeled and minced 1 carrot, peeled and roughly chopped 1 Granny Smith apple, cored and roughly chopped 1 medium (about 3-4 lbs) butternut squash, peeled, seeded and diced 1 white onion, peeled and roughly chopped 1 sprig fresh sage 1/2 teaspoon salt 1/4 teaspoon freshly-ground black pepper 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pinch of ground cinnamon and nutmeg 1/2 cup canned (unsweetened) coconut milk optional garnishes: extra coconut milk, smoked paprika, or see more ideas above

DIRECTIONS:

SLOW COOKER INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Add vegetable stock, garlic, carrot, apple, butternut squash, sage, onion, salt, pepper, cayenne, cinnamon and nutmeg to a small (4-quart) slow cooker or large (6-quart) slow cooker. Toss to combine.
- 2. Cook for 6-8 hours on low, or 3-4 hours on high, or until the squash is completely tender and mashes easily with a fork. Remove and discard the sage. Stir in the coconut milk.
- 3. Use an immersion blender to pure the soup until smooth. (Or you can transfer the soup in two batches into a traditional blender and pure until smooth, being extremely careful not to fill the blender too full with a hot liquid.) Taste, and season with additional salt, pepper and cayenne as needed.
- 4. Serve warm, topped with your desired garnishes.

**STOVETOP INSTRUCTIONS:** 

- 1. Add vegetable stock, garlic\*, carrot, apple, butternut squash, sage, onion\*, salt, pepper, cayenne, cinnamon and nutmeg a large stockpot. Toss to combine.
- 2. Cook on medium-high until the mixture reaches a simmer. Then cover, reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer for 20-30 minutes until the vegetables are all tender and mash easily with a fork.
- 3. Remove and discard the sage. Stir in the coconut milk.
- 4. Use an immersion blender to pure the soup until smooth. (Or you can transfer the soup in two batches into a traditional blender and pure until smooth, being extremely careful not to fill the blender too full with a hot liquid.) Taste, and season with additional salt, pepper and cayenne as needed.
- 5. Serve warm, topped with your desired garnishes.

\*For extra flavor, I recommend sautéing the garlic and onion before adding the remaining ingredients. Just heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium-high heat. Add diced onion and sauté for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until tender. Then add minced garlic and sauté for 1-2 additional minutes until fragrant, stirring occasionally. Then add the remaining ingredients and continue on with the recipe.

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