

Basil pesto pasta salad

Makes 12 servings as side item

Ingredients:

16oz box rotini pasta
1 container cherry tomatoes, halved
4 ribs celery, diced
2 cups loosely packed basil leaves
1/2 clove fresh garlic
2 tablespoons pine nuts
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
Salt and pepper to taste



Instructions:

Cook pasta according to package directions, drain, and set aside.

In food processor or blender, combine basil, garlic, and pine nuts. Slowly drizzle in olive oil as mixture blends. Once combined, stir in Parmesan cheese with a spoon.

Combine pasta, tomatoes, celery, and pesto in a large bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve warm, or refrigerate.

Modifications: add white beans, peas, or chicken to increase protein; sub spinach for basil to reduce cost; sub 1 teaspoon pre-minced garlic for fresh

Nutrition info (per serving): 243 calories, 12g fat, 85mg sodium, 29g carb, 2g fiber, 6g protein. Good source of vitamin A, excellent source of calcium



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