

# MYSTERY BOX NEWSLETTER

# SANTA CRUZ, CAPITOLA & LOS GATOS August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Armenian <u>Cucumber</u> Sugar <u>Snap Peas</u> <u>Cherry Tomatoes</u> Mixed <u>Carrots</u> Small Yellow "Roasting <u>Onions</u>" Dry Farmed Early Girl <u>Tomatoes</u> <u>Spigariello</u> <u>Lettuce</u> Par-cel <u>Garlic Chives</u>

**\*\*Disclaimer to the above vegetable list\*\*:** The list above is *approximate*. When we run short of an item, we substitute with something else similar. Andy will make sure it will be a good value. In the meantime, we appreciate your patience and a sense of adventure with these boxes. Enjoy!

**Storage:** <u>Cucumber, Snap Peas, Carrots, Roasting Onions</u> <u>& Lettuce</u>: Store in bags in your crisper in the fridge. <u>Tomatoes:</u> Keep them on your counter until you're ready to eat them. Not in the fridge! It makes them mushy and less tasty. <u>Spigariello, Par-Cel & Garlic Chives</u>: Remove ties and store loosely in bags in the fridge.



Armenian Cucumbers. You might get a big cucumber or a couple of smaller ones but size does not matter! Armenian cucumbers are a big cucumber melon – they belong to the same family as melons. Photo by Andy Griffin.

### Armenian Cucumber & Tomato Salad Adapted from The Kitchen Scout

 Armenian <u>Cucumber</u>, seeded and cut into 1-inch chunks (about 3 cups)
 Dry Farmed Early Girl <u>tomatoes</u>, cut into 1-inch chunks (about 3 cups)
 bunch <u>scallions</u>, trimmed and thinly sliced (white and green parts)
 1/3 cup chopped fresh <u>cilantro</u>
 1/3 cup chopped fresh <u>parsley</u> (try the parcel here!)
 2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
 ½ tsp Kosher salt
 ¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
 4 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Combine cucumbers, tomatoes, scallions, cilantro and parsley in a large bowl and toss lightly.

In a separate bowl, combine lemon juice with salt and pepper. Slowly whisk in olive oil until the vinaigrette is emulsified. Pour over the vegetables and mix well. Season to taste.

## Sugar Snap Peas with Lemon, Garlic & Basil

2 tablespoons olive oil
Zest of 1 medium lemon, sliced very fine, plus 1 tablespoon juice
1 medium garlic clove, minced
1 recipe Blanched Sugar Snap Peas
6–8 fresh basil leaves, chopped fine
½ teaspoon salt
Ground black pepper

Heat oil over medium heat in medium sauté pan. Add zest and garlic; sauté until garlic is soft but not browned, about 2 minutes. Add peas, lemon juice, and basil; toss to combine. Cook until just heated through, 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste; serve immediately. Serves 6.

# **Recipe suggestion from Ladybug Customer Jill E.:**

I thought I'd share this recipe with you ~ ever since I found it, I have never tossed any veggies. I just make the soup for family and friends and no wasted produce. It's pretty yummy! And it's never the same! https://www.bonappetit.com/story/back-pocket-soup

#### Curried Roasted Carrots From Jennifer Segal of <u>Once Upon A Chef</u>

2 pounds medium <u>carrots</u>, sliced into thirds on the diagonal
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon curry powder
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1 tablespoon honey, or to taste

Set oven rack in middle position and preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil.

Toss carrots with olive oil, curry powder and salt directly on baking sheet until evenly coated. Roast, stirring with a rubber spatula a few times to prevent sticking and burning, until tender, 25-30 minutes. Toss roasted carrots with honey directly on baking sheet. Taste and add more salt, pepper or honey if desired.

#### Lentils with Sausage, Onions, and Spigariello Broccoli by Michelle, From Seed to Table

1 cup lentils that stay intact when cooked, such as du Puy, Pardina, or Norcia 3 cups water

- 3 smoked sausages, about 9 to 10 ounces
- 3 fresh thyme sprigs
- 1 fresh bay leaf

1 lb sweet onions, quartered and sliced <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch thick

 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup or more olive oil

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 bunch spigariello broccoli, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound, tough stems removed, tender parts, including leaves, chopped into about  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pieces

1 tablespoon pomegranate molasses or concentrate or about ½ tablespoon good balsamic vinegar

Sort through the lentils to remove any stones or other debris, rinse them and put them in a medium saucepan. Add the water, sausages, thyme and bay leaf. Bring to a boil, turn the heat low and simmer, partially covered, until the lentils are tender but not falling apart. This could take from 20 minutes to more than 40 minutes, depending on how old the lentils are. There should be very little liquid left when the lentils are done, it may be necessary to add more water if they take a long time to cook. When the lentils are nearly done, remove the sausages and set aside until cool enough to handle, then slice the sausages about <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch thick. Remove the thyme stems and bay leaves when the lentils are done.

While the lentils are cooking, put the onions in a medium sized skillet with the olive oil and fry the onions over medium to medium low heat (you may have to turn the heat down as the onions start to brown), until the onions are golden. Drain the onions through a metal sieve, saving

#### the olive oil.

Return the skillet to the heat with a tablespoon or two of the onion flavored oil (reserve the remaining oil to sauté something else that would taste good with the onion flavor, like potatoes). Add the garlic and sauté briefly, don't allow it to brown. Add the chopped broccoli to the skillet and toss to coat with the oil, add a few tablespoons of liquid (lentil cooking liquid if there's enough) and cover the pan and braise the broccoli over low heat to whatever degree of tenderness you like, most of the liquid should be gone.

Add the sliced sausage, drained onion, and braised broccoli to the lentils, drizzle in the pomegranate molasses and stir everything together. Taste for salt, it may not be needed if the sausage is salty. Serve warm. Makes about 4 servings.

# Blanched Broccoli with Basil Pesto and Cherry Tomatoes

#### Adapted from Pasta e Verdura by Jack Bishop

2 pounds broccoli di cicco (try the spigariello here) salt to taste
1 cup tightly packed fresh basil leaves
2 medium cloves garlic, peeled
2 Tbs. pine nuts
6 Tbs. olive oil
1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
2 pints cherry tomatoes
1 pound pasta (such as shells, or other open shape)
Bring 4 quarts of salted water to boil in large pot for

cooking the pasta. Bring several quarts of water to boil in another pot. Chop the broccoli into small, bite-sized pieces. (If using spigariello, remove the woody stems and use the more tender stems and leaves.) Add the broccoli and salt to taste to the boiling water. Cook until broccoli is tender, about 3 minutes. Drain and set aside the broccoli. Place the basil, garlic, and pine nuts in the work bowl of a food processor and process, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed, until smooth. With the motor running, slowly pour the oil through the feed tube and process until smooth. Scrape the pest into a large bowl. Stir in the cheese and additional salt to taste. Cut the tomatoes in half. Add the tomatoes to the bowl with the pesto and toss gently. Add the broccoli to the bowl and toss gently. Taste for salt and adjust seasonings if necessary. While preparing the sauce, cook and drain the pasta. Toss the hot pasta with the broccoli sauce. Mix well and transfer portions to pasta bowls. Serve immediately. Serves 4.

Mariquita Farm's Vegetable Recipes A to Z page: http://mariquita.com/recipes/index.html