Chickpea Lentil Quinoa Spinach Stew

Prep: 20 minutes • Cook: 25 minutes

A fragrant, Indian-inspired one-pot stew where a silky spinach—tomato purée simmers with lentils, quinoa, and chickpeas for deep, curry-warmed flavor. It's hearty, protein-packed, and finished with crunchy cashews and cool, creamy dairy-free yogurt.

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup red lentils
- 1/4 cup quinoa
- 15 oz can (or 1 1/2 cups cooked) chickpeas
- 1 teaspoon oil (or sauté in broth for oil-free)
- 1/2 cup red onion (finely chopped or thinly sliced)
- 1 green chili (finely chopped; optional)
- 1 teaspoon garam masala (or more to taste)
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon powder
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin powder
- 2 large tomatoes
- 2 cups spinach (packed; more for greener soup; about 3 oz if using frozen)
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 inch ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon black peppercorns (or use cracked black pepper later)
- 2 cups water or vegetable stock (divided)
- 3/4 teaspoon salt (or to taste)
- 1/2 teaspoon raw sugar (or other sweetener)
- 2 tablespoons cashews (chopped; omit for nut-free)
- for garnish non-dairy yogurt (optional)
- for garnish non-dairy cream (optional)
- for garnish crushed red pepper flakes (optional)
- for garnish hemp seeds (optional)
- as needed non-dairy milk (optional; to thin for soupier consistency)

Instructions

- 1. Rinse and drain the red lentils and quinoa; drain the chickpeas and set aside.
- 2. Heat the oil in a deep skillet over medium heat. Add the red onion and green chili and sauté for 5 minutes until

softened.

- 3. Stir in the garam masala, cinnamon, cardamom, and cumin; cook for 1 minute until fragrant.
- 4. Meanwhile, blend the tomatoes, spinach, garlic, ginger, and black peppercorns with 1/2 cup water (or stock) into a smooth purée.
- 5. Pour the spinach-tomato purée into the skillet and mix well.
- 6. Add the lentils, quinoa, and chickpeas; stir to combine.
- 7. Add salt, sugar, and the remaining 1 1/2 cups water (or stock). Mix, cover, and cook for about 20 minutes, stirring once midway, until lentils and quinoa are tender.
- 8. Stir in the chopped cashews. Taste and adjust salt and spices. Add water or non-dairy milk as needed for a soupier consistency and bring back to a gentle boil.
- 9. Serve hot with desired garnishes (non-dairy yogurt or cream, crushed red pepper flakes, extra cashews or hemp seeds) and bread, crackers, flatbread, or naan for dipping.

Tags: High Protein, Indian, Vegan, Gluten Free, One Pot, Stew

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