

Split Pea Soup

3 cups split peas
10 cups water
1 bay leaf
2 tsp. salt
2 onions, minced
4-5 medium cloves of garlic, crushed
3 stalks celery, minced
2 medium carrots, diced
1 small potato, thinly sliced
3-4 Tbs. vinegar, to taste
ground pepper

Place split peas, water, bay leaf, and salt in a large soup pot. Bring to a boil, lower heat as much as possible, and simmer, partially covered, for 20 minutes. Add onion, garlic, celery, carrots, and potato. Simmer again for about 40 minutes more with occasional stirring. Add vinegar and black pepper to taste.

Red Lentil Soup (Dal)

1 cup split red lentils, rinsed
4 cups water
2 thin slices unpeeled ginger
½ tsp. ground turmeric
1 tsp. salt, or to taste
3 Tbs. ghee, butter, or vegetable oil
1 tsp. whole cumin seeds
1 tsp. ground coriander
½ cup coconut milk (optional)

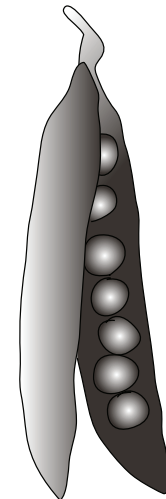
Combine the lentils and water in a heavy pot. Bring to a simmer and remove any foam that collects at the top. Add the ginger and turmeric. Cook with lid ajar until lentils are tender, about 30-45 minutes. Add the salt and stir to mix. Remove ginger slices.

Put the ghee, butter or oil in a small frying pan over medium heat. When hot, add the cumin seeds. Let sizzle a few seconds. Add the coriander, stir, then quickly remove contents to the soup pot. Add coconut milk if desired, and serve. Good with basmati rice.

About City Market, Onion River Co-op

City Market/Onion River Co-op is a consumer cooperative, with over 6,000 members, selling wholesome food and other products while building a vibrant, empowered community and a healthier world, all in a sustainable manner. Located in downtown Burlington, Vermont, City Market provides a large selection of local, natural and conventional foods, and over 1,200 local and Vermont-made products. Visit City Market, Onion River Co-op online at www.CityMarket.coop or call 802-861-9700.

Split Peas, Lentils, & Dal



Split peas, lentils, and dal are the quick-cooking members of the legume family, which also includes dried beans and peanuts. Unlike dried beans, they do not need to be soaked ahead. Their mild flavor is great in comfort foods like soup or jazzed up with some Indian spices. For a quick and nutritious meal, these legumes are the perfect place to start.



Your Community-Owned Grocery Store
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About Legumes

Split peas, lentils, and dal have a mild, earthy flavor. Some varieties, like split peas, become very soft and creamy when cooked, and they're well-suited for soups. Other varieties, like French indigo lentils, remain firm and nutty when cooked.

Legumes are good for the whole family. They are a natural source of folic acid and iron (women in your childbearing years, take note!). They are high in protein for growing kids and active adults. They are also high in fiber and magnesium, which are good for our hearts and circulation. Affordable, quick, and healthy - everyone wins.

Store split peas, lentils, and dal in a cool, dry place such as a pantry or cupboard for 6 months to 1 year.

Varieties

black-eyed peas - These shiny white beans with the black markings are more closely related to beans than to peas, but like split peas, they do not need to soak overnight. They are a favorite in the South and are traditionally served on New Year's Day for good luck, along with collards or other greens, rice, ham hock, and cornbread. They have a mild, creamy flavor.

green split peas - dried green peas that have been split in half for faster cooking; most commonly found in pea soup (*see recipe on back*)

yellow split peas - The yellow variety of split peas; substitute them in recipes that call for green split peas if you want a different color. Some people use them in Indian dal recipes that call for "chana dal" because their yellow color resembles chana dal (which is actually a relative of the chick pea that is split in half).

green lentils - lentils commonly found in the United States that have a brownish hue; they have a mild, understated flavor and a tendency to become mushy if overcooked

red lentils - These lentils are red when dry, but become a deep golden color when cooked. They are creamy and flavorful and most often used in Indian-style dal recipes.

French indigo lentils - These tiny dark lentils, originally grown in the Puy region of France, have a delicious, nutty flavor and can be substituted for common green lentils in most lentil recipes. Because they are firmer than other varieties of lentils, they can also be used in salads.

autumn lentil blend - This is a colorful blend of five different lentil varieties, including French, petite crimson, black beluga, Spanish pardina, and ivory white lentils. To make a colorful side dish, cook 1 part lentil blend with 2 parts chicken or vegetable broth for 45 minutes (add salt and pepper and a pat of butter at the end). Don't overcook, or the color will fade.

mung dal - split mung beans, used in some Indian dal recipes

yellow mung dal - split mung beans with the green outer skin removed, revealing the yellow color beneath; also used in dal

About dal

The word "dal" comes from the Sanskrit word meaning "to split." In Indian cuisine, it refers both to the beans that have been split as well as to a fragrant, spiced soup made with these split beans that is found in many variations throughout India.

City Market carries a variety of legumes suitable for dal. You can make a dal with *yellow split peas*, *red lentils*, *green lentils*, *mung dal*, and *yellow mung dal* (*see recipe on back*).

How to Cook Legumes

It's a good idea to check split peas, lentils, and dal for small stones that may have found their way in during the harvesting process (you can simply shake them around in the pot you plan to cook them in). Then give them a quick rinse in a strainer.

As a general rule, bring 3x the amount of water to boil along with the rinsed legumes, turning the heat down to a simmer. You can add onion, garlic, bay leaf, ginger, or spices at this point. Add a little more water for a thinner soup, less for a thicker stew or side dish.

Cook for about 30-45 minutes for legumes with a creamy consistency, or take out 5-10 minutes earlier for a firmer consistency or to use in salad. (Black-eyed peas and split peas take a little longer to cook - about 1 hour; red lentils cook a little faster - about 20-25 minutes).

Seasoning and serving

In general, you can perk up the flavors of legumes towards the end of their cooking time with any of the following: sea salt, olive oil, a splash of vinegar, toasted sesame oil, tamari, miso, fresh lemon juice, fresh herbs, or pungent spices like chilis, garlic, or whole cumin seeds sauteed briefly in olive oil.