## Fruit of the Month: Pineapple



The word "Pineapple," is derived from the word pina, which was used to describe a pine cone by the Spanish. Later, it was introduced to the Hawaiian Islands which are now the leading producers of this fruit. Today, in the United States the pineapple can be marketed as fresh or canned and it is most widely used as tropical canned fruit in recipes. (Wellness Encyclopedia of Food and Nutrition, 1992)

## Varieties

There are four types of pineapples mainly found in the marketplace. These include the Gold, smooth Cayenne, Red Spanish and Sugar Loaf. They are sold fresh and canned and all have a sweet flavor. The Gold variety features an extra sweet flavor, golden color, and higher vitamin C content.

| Nutrition Facts |
| :--- | ---: |
| Nuta |
| Serving Size (112g) |
| Servings Per Container |

## Selecting

Select pineapples with a nice fragrant smell. If possible choose pineapples that have been jet shipped from Hawaii or Central America because they will be the freshest. Avoid those pineapples with sour or fermented odors. It is really ripe if you can easily pull one of the leaves out of the top.

## Storing

Store at room temperature for 1 or 2 days before serving to allow the pineapple to become softer and sweeter. Store in the refrigerator for 3 to 5 days or cut pineapple into chunks and store for up to 7 days. Cut up pineapple also freezes well.

## Make Pineapple Part of Your 5 A Day Plan



It is easy to include pineapples in your 5 A Day Plan. Drink a glass of pineapple juice in the morning before work or school, eat a slice of pineapple topped with cottage cheese or add to your favorite low fat pizza for a fun treat.

# Recipes 

## Pineapple Slaw

Makes 6 servings
Each serving equals one 5 A Day serving
$21 / 2$ cups shredded cabbage
1 cup shredded carrots
1 cup pineapple chunks
$1 / 4$ cup raisins
$21 / 2$ Tbsp pineapple juice

Combine all ingredients in large bowl. Toss and serve or put in refrigerator covered until serving time.

Nutritional analysis per serving: calories 64 , protein 1 g , fat 0 g , percent calories from at $2 \%$, cholesterol 0 mg , carbohydrates 16 g , fiber 2 g , sodium 17 mg

## Caribbean Spice Chicken

Makes 4 servings
Each serving equals one 5 A Day serving

1 can ( 20 oz ) pineapple slices
1 Tbsp each of: ground ginger, curry powder, and garlic powder
$1 / 4$ Tbsp cayenne pepper
1 Tbsp cornstarch
4 Skinless, boneless, chicken breast halves
1 Tbsp vegetable oil
$1 / 4$ cup each of: flaked sweet coconut, slivered green onions

Drain pineapple juice into a large measuring cup. Combine spices in small bowl.
Stir $1 / 4$ Tbsp spice mixture, along with cornstarch, into pineapple juice. Set aside. Sprinkle all remaining spice mixture over chicken. Drizzle oil over chicken. Place on roasting pan rack. Bake in a 400 degree oven 15 minutes. Arrange pineapple slices on rack. Bake 5 minutes longer. Meanwhile, stir pineapple juice mixture. Microwave, uncovered, 2 to 4 minutes until sauce boils and thickens. Arrange chicken and pineapple on 4 serving plates. Spoon pineapple sauce over, top with coconut and onions. Serve with $1 / 2$ cup serving of dark green vegetables.

Nutritional analysis per serving: calories 258 , protein 27 g , fat 6 g , percent calories from fat $21 \%$, cholesterol 73 mg , carbohydrates 24 g , fiber 2 g , sodium 91 mg

## Cottage Cheese, Fruit and Sprout



## Salad

Makes 2 servings
Each serving equals one 5 A Day serving
Source: International Sprout Growers
Association
$1 / 2$ cup non-fat cottage cheese
$1 / 2$ cup cress or clover sprouts, chopped 1 cup fresh pineapple (or canned crushed pineapple, drained)
1 cup pear, diced, or substitute nectarine, mango or guava 2 lettuce leaves

Mix cottage cheese and sprouts. Stir in pineapple and pear. Served chilled on top of a lettuce leaf.

Nutritional analysis per serving: calories 167 , protein 8 g , fat 1 g , percent calories from fat $3 \%$, cholesterol 3 mg , carbohydrates 34 g , fiber 4 g , sodium 232 mg

## Hawaiian Ambrosia

Makes 8 servings
Each serving equals two 5 A Day servings
Source: Produce for Better Health
And Maui Pineapple Co., Ltd

1 can (20 oz) pineapple chunks
1 can (17 oz) fruit cocktail
1 can (11 oz) Mandarin oranges
1 cup plain nonfat yogurt
1 cup miniature marshmallows

$1 / 2$ cup shredded coconut
$1 / 2$ cup raisins
$1 / 4$ cup pecans

Drain fruit well. Add coconut, yogurt or sour cream, marshmallows, raisins, and nuts. Mix well and refrigerate for one hour.

Nutritional analysis per serving: calories 169 , protein 2 g , fat 5 g , percent calories from fat $24 \%$, cholesterol 1 mg , carbohydrates 31 g , fiber 2 g , sodium 50 mg

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