Roasted Beet Tortellini Salad

Alison Ladman - For The Associated Press Palm Beach Post

Servings: 10

Preparation Time: 40 minutes

Start to Finish Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

If you make this salad ahead of time, refrigerate it. Let it stand at room temperature for 30 minutes before serving.

2 pounds beets, peeled and cut into one-inch pieces

4 tablespoons olive oil, divided

salt

ground black pepper

2 packages (20 ounces) fresh cheese tortellini

1/4 cup rice vinegar

2 tablespoons fresh mint, chopped

2 tablespoons fresh chives, chopped

2 tablespoons fresh oregano, chopped

1 tablespoon sugar

1 container (12 ounce) fresh blueberries

1/2 cup toasted pecans, chopped

4 ounces soft goat cheese

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Spread the beets on a rimmed baking sheet. Sprinkle the beets with one tablespoon of the olive oil, then season with salt and black pepper. Roast for 30 minutes or until tender when pierced with a fork. Set aside to cool.

Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil. Add the tortellini and cook according to package directions. Drain the tortellini, then spread out on a rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle them with one tablespoon of the olive oil then set aside to cool.

Meanwhile, in a blender combine the remaining two tablespoons of the olive oil, the rice vinegar, mint, chives, oregano and sugar. Blend until well mixed. Season with salt and pepper.

In a large bowl, toss together the roasted beets, tortellini, blueberries, pecans and herb vinaigrette. Gently toss to coat, then crumble the goat cheese over the top.

Serve at room temperature.

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 119 Calories; 8g Fat (58.0% calories from fat); 3g Protein; 10g Carbohydrate; 2g Dietary Fiber; 5mg Cholesterol; 90mg Sodium. Exchanges: 0 Grain(Starch); 1 Vegetable; 0 Fruit; 1 Fat; 0 Other Carbohydrates.