Adapted from Vegetables by Antonio Carlucci



Two simple cooling summer soups tastefully merged for both taste and eye appeal.

Makes four servings Prep time: 15 or more minutes plus time to chill

Ingredients

- 2 large **organic cucumbers**, peeled and cut into chunks
- 2 tbs. finely chopped fresh dill
- 3 tbs. heavy organic whipping cream
- 2 large **beefsteak tomatoes**, stem removed, skinned* and chopped
- 10 fresh basil leaves, plus extra for garnish
- 1 small white onion, roughly chopped
- 2 tbs. extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for serving
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Directions

- 1. Put the cucumber, dill, and some salt and pepper into a blender and purée. Mix in the cream. Pour into a small pitcher and refrigerate until chilled.
- 2. To skin the tomatoes, place in boiling water for 30 seconds, then move to a bowl of ice water and allow to rest 5 minutes. The skin will slide off easily.
- 3. Clean the blender, and then blend the skinned tomatoes with the basil, onion, olive oil, and some salt and pepper to obtain a smooth mixture. Refrigerate until chilled.
- 4. To serve, pour a little of the cucumber soup into a deep soup plate and carefully pour the tomato soup into the center. Drizzle some extra-virgin olive oil over the top, and then decorate with a few basil leaves.

CUCUMBERS: Health Benefits The phytonutrients found in cucumbers provide us with valuable antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anti-cancer benefits. Cucumbers are an excellent source of vitamin K, molybdenum and pantothenic acid. They are also a good source of copper, potassium, manganese, vitamin C, phosphorus, magnesium, biotin, and vitamin B1. They also contain the important nail health-promoting mineral silica. Since cucumbers can be very sensitive to heat, you'll be on safer grounds if you choose those that

are displayed in refrigerated cases in the market. They should be **firm**, **rounded at their edges**, **and their color should be a bright medium to dark green. Cucumbers should be stored in the refrigerator** where they will keep for several days.

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