



Give Them More  
of the  
Good Stuff!

# Salad Greens Basics

## Shop and Save



- Look for leaves that are fresh and show no signs of wilting or spoiling.
- Buy an amount that you can use within about a week. Bags or containers usually have a "BEST if used by" date.
- Whole heads of lettuce might cost less than containers of ready-to-eat greens and salad kits.
- Containers of mixed greens can provide a variety of different greens in smaller amounts.
- Check a farmers market or farm stand for a variety of local fresh greens in season.

Salad greens are an excellent source of vitamin K, which helps stop bleeding.



## Common Salad Greens

Try a mix for variety of flavor, texture and color. Darker color greens have more nutrients.

**Leaf lettuce (green or red)** - tender, ruffled leaves with a crunchy center stem; mild flavor.



**Romaine or Cos** - large, smooth, oval leaves with a thick crunchy center rib; more crisp than leaf lettuces; mild flavor.



**Butterhead** - soft, tender cupped leaves; sweet, mild flavor.



**Iceberg** - crisp pale green leaves; mild flavor and crunchy texture.



**Spinach and Kale** - **✓Darkest green of all types!** Baby leaves are tender. Mature leaves have more fiber and stiff stems. Soften mature kale leaves by cutting into small pieces or rubbing with your fingers and a small amount of dressing just until the leaves start to wilt.

## Store Well Waste Less

- Greens are best when refrigerated with a little moisture and airflow. Cover greens with a damp paper towel in an open container or make holes in a plastic bag (20 holes in a medium bag). Some greens are sold in plastic boxes with holes. Use greens within 7 to 10 days for best quality.

- Some greens are labeled "washed" or "ready-to-eat." If greens are not pre-washed, separate leaves and swish in a container of cold water. Lift out of the water and repeat in clean water until no grit collects on the bottom of the container. Drain until just damp or gently pat with a towel. Avoid bruising the leaves.
- Green salads can be made as early as a day before serving. Add the dressing just before serving to keep the greens more crisp.



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# Serving Up Salad Greens

## Honey Mustard Dressing

### Ingredients:

½ cup low-fat plain **yogurt**  
3 tablespoons nonfat or 1% **milk**  
1 tablespoon **honey**  
2 teaspoons **mustard**

### Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients in a small bowl and stir until smooth. Cover and chill for 30 minutes before serving.  
2. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.

### Notes:

For a stronger flavor, add an extra 1 to 2 teaspoons mustard.

This recipe works with all types of mustard! Honey is not recommended for children under 1 year old.

## Create a Salad

- 1 **Start with Greens**—One type or a mix. 2 cups of leafy greens is a serving.
- 2 **Add Some Color**—Vegetables or fruit (fresh, canned, or dried).

Peas	Carrots	Tomatoes	Oranges
Broccoli	Peppers	Berries	Cranberries
- 3 **Pick a Low-Fat Protein**—It helps you feel full.

Egg	Tuna or salmon	Tofu
Beans - cooked or canned (drained)	Cooked meats	
- 4 **Dress it Lightly**—Dressings can add calories; use a small amount; try reduced-fat versions or make your own; thin dressings spread farther so you can use less.

**Use Toppings Sparingly**—Look for reduced-fat options. Cheese, seeds or nuts, bacon bits and croutons can add extra calories.

## Ranch Dressing

### Ingredients:

¼ cup low-fat **mayonnaise**  
½ cup low-fat **buttermilk**  
1 teaspoon **dried parsley**  
½ teaspoon **garlic powder**  
½ teaspoon **onion powder**  
¼ teaspoon **salt**  
¼ teaspoon **pepper**

### Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients in a small bowl and stir until smooth. Cover and chill until ready to serve.  
2. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.

### Notes:

For a thinner dressing, add an extra 2 to 3 tablespoons of low-fat buttermilk.

Go to  
**FoodHero.org**  
for easy, tasty  
salad recipes



## Kids Can!

When kids help make healthy food, they are more likely to try it. Show kids how to:

- ❁ swish greens in a bowl of water to remove dirt.
- ❁ peel or cut fruit or veggies.
- ❁ measure and stir ingredients for salad dressings.