good4u

HEALTH HOTLINE

MARCH 2021 | VOL. 44



THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY!





"Promise yourself to be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble."

-The Optimist Creed

She looms larger than life in my memory, which isn't surprising. She was a whirlwind of feel-good things, from her bright red lipstick to her fondness for dark chocolate. She loved

rousing discussions, family dinners, and welcoming those who didn't have family nearby to call their own. Her laughter was big like her opinions, while her hugs were the coziest of comforters on a frosty night. She believed that "you can never spoil a child," and if there were a recipe for grandma's, hers would get five-star reviews.

A long time has passed since her smile brought warmth to my day, but the impression my grandmother, Margaret Isely, left on me hasn't faded. The incredible thing is, she lives up to the legend in the hearts and memories of everyone who knew her. I think her daughter said it best: "Margaret was presence. She lived the life that made a difference."

It's Women's History Month, and for our family and Natural Grocers that means celebrating the spirit of the woman who helped start it all. Margaret Isely—the legend, co-founder, mother, grandmother, and everyday woman. She lives in the details of Natural Grocers, in the history that makes us who we are today.

When we talk about our dedication to Nutrition Education, she ignited the passion. She taught us that nutrition is the foundation for wellbeing, and knowledge about it is one of the most important gifts you can give. When we talk about our commitment to community, she planted the seeds, passing along her Irish ancestors' motto: "Ours is to share." When we say that some of our unique Crew benefits, like Birthday Bonus Pay and Vitamin Bucks, are inspired by things she used to do, these aren't just things we say. They come from an authentic place, from a woman who led with her heart, who was always herself—compassionate, innovative, wise, and filled with love for all people and the planet.

She's the reason we're willing to get a little more personal now and then, in a letter like this, because everybody deserves to know someone like Margaret. People felt they mattered; that was the message she always expressed. What you do matters, who you are matters. You are worthy of love and belonging.

To the Margarets in all our lives... Happy March!

The Isely Family

OUR 5 FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

NUTRITION I

HIGHEST QUALITY PRODUCTS

ALWAYS Affordable** COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

COMMITMENT TO OUR good4u** CREW

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FOR THE LOVE OF ORGANICS: CULINARY HERS

By Charity Isely



Do March winds leave you feeling restless? We have just the tonic—a culinary journey around the world with fresh herbs! From Italian to Mexican, Thai to French, these aromatic ingredients are essential to our favorite dishes' distinctive flavors. And they're loaded with the "anti's" too: antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and anti-bland!²⁴ Shall we start adventuring?



WE'LL GO TO THE "END OF THE WORLD" FOR PARSLEY

Let's head way down south, to Patagonia, and on the way stop by an asado, the South American version of a barbecue. We're here for the chimichurri, the flavorful Argentinian sauce served alongside grilled meat and featuring one of our herbs du jour, parsley.¹

Phytonutrient to know: Parsley is a top source of apigenin, a flavonoid with potent antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activity, and of interest for its potential protective role against diseases like cancer.^{2 3} Some of the beneficial effects of apigenin seen in studies include inducing cancerous cell death and stimulating important detoxification enzymes.⁴ We'll take a serving of this flavonoid with our chimichurri, please!

Choose organic because: As reported by Beyond Pesticides, the synthetic pesticides approved for use on parsley come with a range of negative effects. Thirteen are linked to health issues like cancer, 12 are poisonous to wildlife, and seven are toxic to honeybees and other pollinators. So, consider the downstream impacts when choosing a bunch.

WE'LL RUSH TO THE SHORES WHERE BASIL IS GOLD

Heading north now, we have a balmier clime in our sights: the Mediterranean. Here, in Italy's Liguria region, we can discover pesto's secrets and the herb it cannot exist without, basil. With pesto alla genovese waiting for us by candlelight, let's have a quick look at the nutritious details of basil.⁶

Phytonutrient(s) to know: Rosmarinic acid is one of the main phenolic compounds in basil, studied for its antiviral, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, and antioxidant properties.^{7 8} And here's a nutritious fun fact: Basil also contains chicoric acid, one of the primary immune-supporting components of echinacea purpurea.^{19 10}

Choose organic because: The synthetic pesticides approved for basil, according to Beyond Pesticides, include 18 linked to chronic health issues, 16 that are poisonous to wildlife, and five that contaminate streams and groundwater. That is certainly not buon appetito to our culinary adventure, so let's stick with organic.

WE'LL CROSS AN OCEAN OR TWO FOR CILANTRO

Finally, we head southwest toward another sparkling sea, the Caribbean. We'll land somewhere on the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico and spend an afternoon lounging beneath the palms, with a book, a drink, and some fresh ceviche topped with cilantro. But first, what should we learn about this zesty herb?

Phytonutrient to know: Quercetin is abundant in many fruits and veggies, including cilantro, ¹² and that's excellent news because this flavonoid is known for being an "outstanding antioxidant." Animal studies have found that quercetin inhibits LDL oxidation, a key step in developing hardening of the arteries. ¹⁴ ¹⁵ ¹⁶ ¹⁷ This antioxidant has also been shown to reduce viral-induced inflammation, lung inflammation, and reduce the damaging effects of oxidative stress on the lungs. ¹⁸ ¹⁹ ²⁰ ²¹

Choose organic because: In 2011, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) reported that cilantro had the highest number of unapproved (for that crop) pesticide residues recorded since they began tracking USDA testing data.²² As of 2020, cilantro hadn't cleaned up its record much, with the EWG noting that its pesticide residue profile was similar to that of two Dirty Dozen list regulars—spinach and kale.²³ Next time you buy a bunch of this tender-leafed herb, make it organic!

References available upon request.



INGREDIENTS

For the chimichurri sauce

- ½ cup organic parsley leaves, stems removed
- 2 tablespoons organic cilantro leaves, stems removed (optional)
- ½ cup Natural Grocers™ Brand Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 2 tablespoons Natural Grocers Brand Organic Apple Cider Vinegar
- ¼ ½ small organic red onion, chopped into 1-inch pieces
- 3 cloves organic garlic
- ½ teaspoon Natural Grocers Brand Bulk Organic Red Chili Flakes (or to taste)
- ¾ teaspoon Natural Grocers Brand Bulk Organic Oregano Leaf
- ½ 1 teaspoon coarse salt (adjust to taste)

1 tablespoon water

For the parsley pesto sauce

- 2 organic garlic cloves
- 2 cups packed, de-stemmed organic Italian parsley
- ½ cup Natural Grocers Brand Bulk Organic Walnuts
- ½ cup finely grated organic Parmesan cheese
- %-% cup Natural Grocers Brand Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Natural Grocers Brand Bulk Real Salt and Organic Ground Black Pepper, to taste

CHIMICHURRI AND PARSLEY PESTO SAUCES

Bored with your weeknight meals? Try adding a delicious flavor-packed sauce to spruce up almost anything on the menu—without adding much extra time to your night. Chimichurri is delicious on chicken, fish, steak, tempeh, tofu, beans, or vegetables. It can be used as a marinade before cooking or served on top after cooking. Use parsley pesto the same way; it is also tasty on spaghetti squash, pasta, potatoes, and rice. Bring new life to your tired weeknight meals and impress your family with a fresh and zesty good4ust sauce!

INSTRUCTIONS

PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES PER SAUCE 30 MINUTES FOR BOTH SAUCES | SERVES 4

- 1. For the chimichurri: Add the parsley and cilantro to a food processor and process until finely chopped, about 1 minute. Add the remaining ingredients and process until all the ingredients are finely chopped and well combined. Taste and adjust the flavor to your liking. Chimichurri is easy to adjust to your taste: Add more red pepper, garlic, or salt if you like, if you don't like cilantro, simply leave it out. The outcome should be a fresh flavor, with a little spice and zing. When the taste is to your liking, scrape it into a bowl to use immediately, or transfer to a jar with a tight-fitting lid to refrigerate until ready to use.
- 2. For the parsley pesto: Add the garlic, parsley, walnuts, and cheese to food processor. Process until a paste forms, stopping to scrape down once or twice while processing. Add the olive oil, pouring very slowly, while the food processor runs, to gradually blend the oil into the parsley mixture; adjust the amount to your preference for thickness. Once incorporated, stop to add salt and pepper to taste and process again until well combined. When the taste is to your liking, scrape it into a bowl to use immediately, or transfer to a jar with a tight-fitting lid to refrigerate until ready to use.

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Vanilla or Chocolate 28.4-29.6 OZ.

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ZAND® Immune Fast Elderberry 15 CHFW

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Clinical studies suggest that curcumin may support healthy joints and help maintain a healthy cardiovascular system





100 VCAP

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Organic Fermented Mushroom Complete 60 VCAP

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DYNAMIC HEALTH® Organic Tart Cherry 16 OZ.

Natural free-radical scavenger featuring anthocyanins.



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ZHOU NUTRITION® Berberine

60 VCAP Formulated for healthy fat metabolism and ketosis support.*

HERITAGE STORE® Black Seed Oil

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HERITAGE STORE® Black Seed Oil 650 mg

Heritage store black seed oil dietary supplement helps you achieve a healthier lifestyle.*

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NATURE'S LIFE® Magnesium 500 mg 100 CAP

Magnesium is essential for strong bones, healthy nerves, and the relaxation of muscles."

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SUPPLEMENTS





20%

\$**31**99

ANCIENT NUTRITION®
Multi Collagen Protein
16 2 07

Add a heaping spoonful to any smoothie, shake, cold drink, or hot drink for a daily boost of collagen protein.*

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COUNTRY LIFE®

Acetyl L-Carnitine 500 mg 120 VCAP

Acetyl L-Carnitine occurs naturally in the body and supports fat metabolism.*

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ALWAYS AFFORDABLE \$27.75

increased strength.*

BIOCHEM®

Glutamine Pure Amino Acid Powder

Supports muscle growth production and

\$**9**49



54 9 9 9 FIRE

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Magnesium Caps 300 mg 120 VCAP

Helps relax muscles, supports healthy immune system function, and essential for proper calcium utilization.*

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22%

\$1<mark>9</mark>99



COUNTRY LIFE®

Core Daily-1 Multi Women or Men 50+ 60 TAB

Get the essential nutrients you need to build a rich foundation of health and wellness.*

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28%

\$10<u>49</u>



COUNTRY LIFE®

Chelated Magnesium 250 mg 180 TAB

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ConcenTrace® Gummies 90 GUMMIES

Provides a delicious way to give your body a complex of full-spectrum, ionic trace minerals from concentrated seawater.*

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TRACE MINERALS RESEARCH®

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40 drops (1/2 teaspoon) equals the mineral content of 1/2 cup sea water with 99% sodium removed.*

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Vitamin C-500 w/ Rose Hips 100 CAP

Provides free-radical support and protection.*

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Echinacea has been clinically shown to support the immune system.*

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JARROW FORMULAS®

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Optique 1

BOIRON® Optique 1°

30 CT

Relieves minor eye irritations due to airborne irritants, such as dust, ragweed, and other pollens.*

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BOIRON® SinusCalm™ 60 TAB

Homeopathic multi-symptom sinus relief. Targets sinus pain with a stuffy or runny nose.*

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Vitamin D-3 5000 IU 120 SG

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NOW® Vitamin D-3 2000 IU 120 SG

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NOW[®]

Acetyl-L-Carnitine 500 mg 50 VCAP

A building block for proteins that helps the body produce energy.*

Carnitine

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Double Strength Lutein 20 mg 90 VCAP

Supports eye health, macular health, and provides free-radical protection.*

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32 OZ.



Double Strength Ginkgo Biloba 120 mg 100 VCAP

This double-strength product has twice the ginkgo (120 mg) as in their regular strength product (60 mg).*

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NOW® NAC 600 mg 100 VCAP

NAC acts as a stabilizer for the formation of protein structures, and is also necessary for the formation of glutathione.*

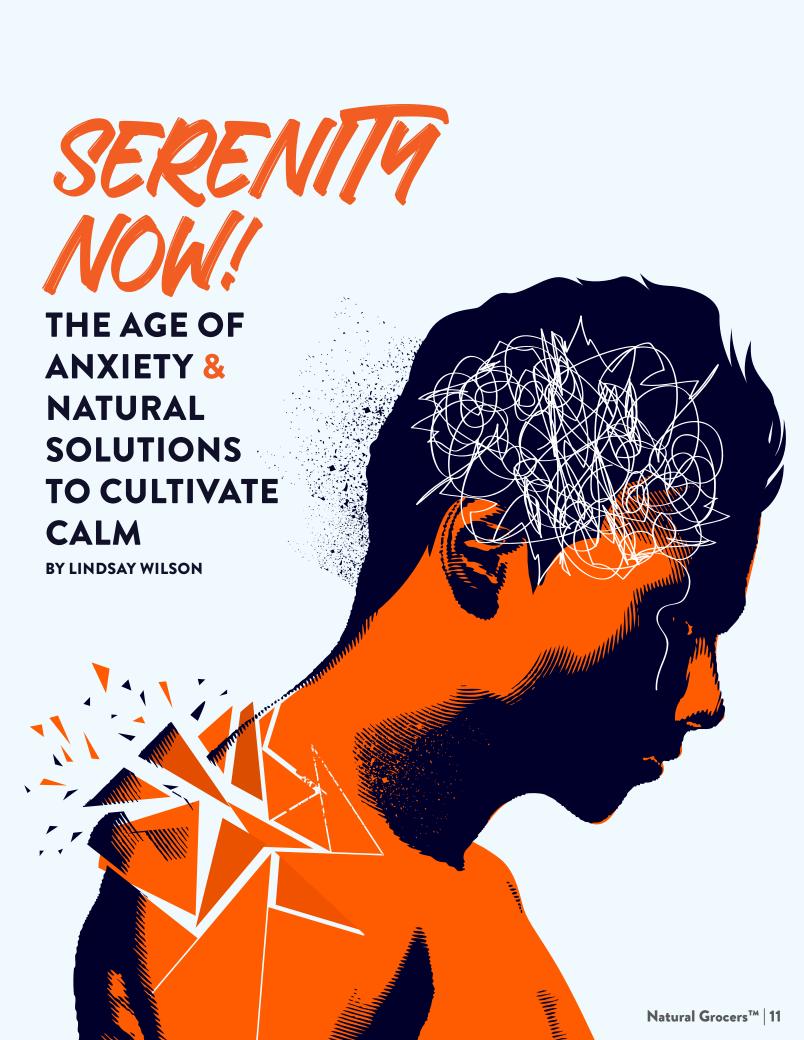
ALWAYS AFFORDABLE \$15.35

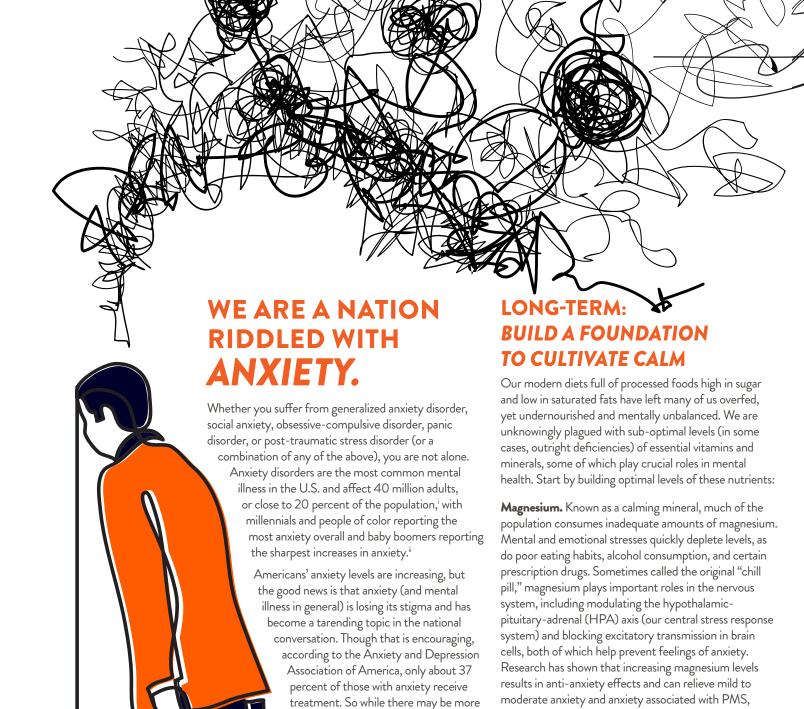




NOW® MCT Oil Unflavored 16 OZ.

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awareness, many people continue to

suffer. Anxiety can be overwhelming

are multiple causes of anxiety,

and severe anxiety disorders

may require medical treatment,

many anxiety symptoms can be

controlled with lifestyle changes

(diet, exercise, meditation, etc.)

and by supporting your body

and brain with nutritional

supplementation.

and hard to know how to handle, but it can be controlled. While there

especially when combined with vitamin B6. " Studies

of vitamin B6 daily with efficacy.

be replenished daily.

have used 250-300 mg of magnesium along with 50 mg

Speaking of **B vitamins**, it's a good idea to take a quality

B-complex as a foundational supplement. The B-family

neurotransmitter production, a healthy stress response,

and are necessary for normal central nervous system

deplete levels of the B vitamins. And because they are

water soluble, they are not stored in the body and must

function. vi vii viii Stress, sugar, and alcohol all quickly

wellbeing; the B vitamins are involved in healthy

works synergistically and is vital for mental and emotional

12 | Health Hotline®

Omega-3 fats. The omega-3 fats docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) are essential for healthy neurological function. And like magnesium, many of us are woefully low in these important fats, and instead consume an overabundance of proinflammatory omega-6s. Clinical research has shown that subjects diagnosed with anxiety have significantly lower levels of EPA and DHA and a higher ratio of omega-6s to omega-3s in the brain, and at least one trial has shown a correlation between low levels of EPA and severity of PTSD.^{ix} An analysis of 19 clinical trials published late last year examined the anti-anxiety effects of EPA and DHA in patients with significant anxiety and fear-related symptoms. Researchers found that taking between 1,000 and 2,000 mg of combined EPA and DHA daily was associated with an improvement in anxiety symptoms, with the strongest effect seen in patients with specific clinical diagnoses.^x

Rhodiola. This herb has a long history of use as an adaptogen, a substance that enhances the body's resistance to the negative effects of stress, both physical and mental. Modern research has found that rhodiola can improve symptoms of burnout—feelings of overload, tension, fatigue, and overall stress—all of which can heighten anxiety, and mild generalized anxiety. In one study, 118 patients with burnout took 200 mg of rhodiola twice a day for three months and experienced "clear improvement," with some symptoms

improving after just one week of supplementing. Overall, rhodiola led to improvements in fatigue, emotional exhaustion, mood, cognition, and decision making. In a trial investigating rhodiola's effect on people with mild anxiety, supplementing with 200 mg of rhodiola twice daily led to a "significant reduction in self-reported anxiety, stress, anger, confusion, and depression at 14 days and a significant improvement in total mood." Another small study found that supplementing with 360 mg of rhodiola daily for 10 weeks led to a significant improvement in symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder.

Probiotics. With more information emerging on the gut-brain axis, researchers have begun to delve into the connection between gut health and mental health, with exciting findings. For example, a healthy balance of Bifidobacterium and Lactobacillus species in the gut is important for producing the brain's main calming neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA); low levels of GABA have been linked to anxiety. Research has also found that probiotics normalize cortisol levels, regulate the HPA axis (hyperactivity or dysregulation of the HPA axis is a strong marker of anxiety), and reduce systemic proinflammatory cytokines, which have been found to play a role in the development of anxiety. Whany people have an unhealthy balance of bacteria in their guts, or dysbiosis; restoring a healthy balance is especially crucial for those with anxiety.

SHORT-TERM: RESTORE CALM

ANXIETY

DISORDERS

are the most common

mental illness in the

U.S. and affect

40 million adults

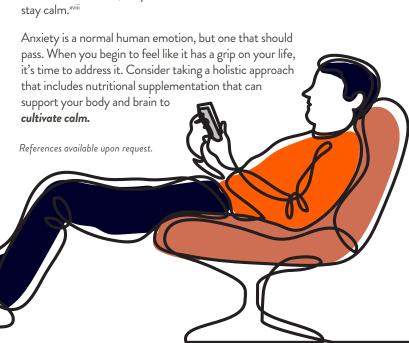
Long-term support is vital, but when you feel yourself on the edge and need something to restore calm, consider some of these "in-the-moment" remedies:

The amino acid **L-theanine** enhances alpha brain wave activity, which induces feelings of calm, and increases the synthesis of the calming neurotransmitter GABA. L-theanine has been shown to lead to changes in brain activity similar to that of meditation. A calming effect is usually felt within 30 minutes at doses between 50 and 200 mg. For more severe anxiety, doses may be increased up to 800 mg daily, divided throughout the day.**

Passionflower has long been used as a folk remedy to treat "hysteria" (i.e., anxiety) and insomnia, and modern research is confirming its efficacy. "One study including 36 patients diagnosed with generalized anxiety disorder found that 45 drops of a liquid passionflower extract was as effective as 30 mg of oxazepam, a common antianxiety prescription drug, and without the side effects reported by those taking the drug. "This herb may be especially helpful for those whose anxiety is coupled with insomnia.

Flower essences are infusions made from the flowering parts of plants and are used for their beneficial effects on mood and emotions. They are said to work on a

subtle energetic level, but with profound results. One study including moderately anxious subjects who reported personality traits as anxious, impatient, irritable, nervous, and tense, found a 100 percent reduction in anxiety levels after treatment with a blend of impatiens, cherry plum, white chestnut, and beech flower essences. Eighty percent of the subjects taking flower essences reported that even when confronted with stressful events, they were able to stay calm.xviii







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NATURAL FACTORS®

C 500 mg Fruit Chew Assorted Flavors 90 WAFER

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NATURAL FACTORS®

Stress-Relax® Tranquil Sleep 90 SG

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NATURAL FACTORS®

Womensense® ThyroSense® 60 VCAP

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NATURAL FACTORS®

Womensense® MenoSense® 90 VCAP

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NATURAL FACTORS®

CurcuminRich® Theracurmin[®] 60 VCAP

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CurcuminRich DOUBLE STRENGTH Theracurmin-

NATURAL FACTORS®

CurcuminRich® Theracurmin[®] **Double Strength** 60 VCAP

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NATURAL FACTORS®

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Raw Organic Red Beet Powder 8.5 OZ.

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90 SG

A source of omega-3s that your growing baby needs for brain and nervous system development, and that support a healthy pregnancy.*

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LILY OF THE DESERT® Organic Aloe Vera Juice Inner Fillet or Whole Leaf 32 OZ.

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\$1279



MRM

Matcha Green Tea Powder 6 OZ.

A pure powder that has no fillers, binders, preservatives, or additives.*

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Supports healthy memory, cognition, emotional wellbeing, and the nervous system.*

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ENZYMEDICA® GlutenEase™ 60 CAP

Supports gluten and casein intolerance. Includes additional enzymes to help digest the entire meal.*

ENZYMEDICA

GlutenEas

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\$2090

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Digest Complete Enzyme Formula 90 CAP

 $\label{eq:Digest} \begin{tabular}{ll} Digest^{\mbox{\scriptsize TM}} is an enhanced formula that breaks \\ down carbohydrates, fats, fiber, and protein. \end{tabular}$

ALWAYS AFFORDABLE^{™\$}27.99 (

{N}power special offer



good4u*

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SOUP & GRILLED CHEESE!



SUPER SIMPLE LENTILS!



A HEARTY CHILI DINNER!





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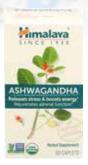
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SUPPLEMENTS







HIMALAYA HERBAL® Ashwagandha 60 CAP

A unique herb with anti-stress adaptogenic action that supports physical fitness and helps cope with life's daily stress."

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AYA HERBAL® Васора

60 VCAP

Supports mental alertness and helps to empower clarity of thought.*

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SOURCE NATURALS®

Melatonin 10 mg 60 TAB

Melatonin can help with occasional sleeplessness.*

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LifeSeason Visibili-T

SOURCE NATURALS®

Melatonin 2.5 mg Peppermint 60 LOZ

A non-habit forming solution that helps reset the body's internal clock.

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LIFESEASONS®

Clinical Immunity Daily Boost 60 VCAP

Supports and maintains healthy immune activity.*

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LIFESEASONS® Visibili-T

60 VCAP

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HOST DEFENSE® Cordyceps Powder® or

Stamets 7 Powder® 100 g

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SOLGAR® No. 7 30 VCAP



Supports mobility, flexibility, and range of motion in sensitive joints. *

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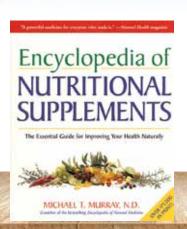
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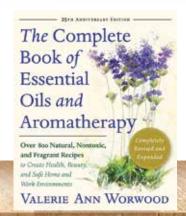
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ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NUTRITIONAL **SUPPLEMENTS** Michael Murray

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THE COMPLETE BOOK OF ESSENTIAL OILS & **AROMATHERAPY**

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Happy Women's History Month to all our family, friends, and neighbors!

We want to acknowledge women's tireless strength throughout history and the everyday influence of the women we cherish in our own lives—inspiring and empowering us to be our better selves. This edition of Think Wisely is a special tribute to these sentiments, featuring only women-owned brands and the incredible innovators behind them. We hope you enjoy it!





It's a sister thing-meet the dynamic duo behind three fanfave body care brands!

The legacy of 180 years of soap-making tradition and the modern family's everyday needs-what do they have in common? Molly and Katherine Oliver, the sisters behind three brands you need to know—The Grandpa Soap Company, South of France® Natural Body Care, and Kirk's. Sustainable and progressive practices are their core values, and transparency is more than a promise. It's why they've gone the distance to become a WBENC certified womenowned business and achieve multiple certifications across their brands, including Non-GMO Project Verified, Leaping Bunny Certified, and Gluten-Free. Three brands, two sisters, one mission-crafting the highest-quality, affordable soap and body care products created with women and families in mind. So, what do you need today? Is it the home chef's new BFF-Odor Neutralizing Hand Wash from Kirk's, or the time-tested, ingredient-driven haircare from The Grandpa Soap Co.? We know what we're craving—a shower escape to the South of France with a bar of triple-milled soap, because who doesn't need that?





Discover a new kind of "tea magic" with Sashee Chandran!

Do you have time for a cup of tea? Sashee Chandran, tea connoisseur and founder of Tea Drops, wants to share a cup with you, and it will only take a moment! Sashee grew up surrounded by tea culture, with her mother from China and father from Sri Lanka. She knows the magical complexity of aroma, quality, and flavor that only a cup of loose leaf tea holds. She also knows it can be a challenge when you're on the go, so she created a new kind of "tea magic." Tea Drops are delicately ground loose leaf teas, blended with a dash of raw sugar, pressed into fun shapes, and ready to dissolve in hot water-no extra work and no wasted tea bags. They're Certified Organic, Fair Trade, made in the USA, and brought to you in recyclable packaging from a women-owned company that is deeply committed to a femaleforward supply chain. So, take a moment and enjoy a cuppa, swirling the cup gently while you do, to capture every fiber-rich sip. Let Tea Drops connect you to the nourishing ritual of tea any time, any place.





Calling all healthy snack lovers-meet the pioneers of organic seaweed snacks!

"Gimme veggies!"—said (almost) no kid ever. But once you try GimMe Organic Seaweed Snacks, you'll start hearing every kid (and yourself) saying "gimMe more seaweed snacks!" GimMe Organics was founded by entrepreneur, Annie Chun, who transformed a staple of her South Korean upbringing, seaweed, into a delicious new staple for healthy snacking across households nationwide. With inspiration from her teenage daughter, Mia, and her husband, Steve, Annie pioneered the world's first USDA Certified Organic and Non-GMO Project Verified seaweed snacks, using sustainably cultivated and harvested seaweed from South Korea. Each batch of GimMe Organic Seaweed Snacks is roasted to light & crispy perfection, Certified Gluten-Free and nutrientdense. Available in three delicious flavors, Sea Salt, Teriyaki, and Wasabi, each bite is crisp and full of umami— a bold flavor that wakes up your taste buds! Kids will beg for this sea veggie, and you may find yourself not wanting to share!





Are you Keto, Paleo, or Gluten-free and missing bread? Jordann Windschauer is here for you!

Can 30 days of clean eating change the course of your life? It can! Just ask Jordann Windschauer-or better yet, sink your teeth into Base Culture, her line of Paleo and Keto baked goods! After she completed a 30-day Paleo Challenge, Jordann knew she couldn't go back to her former way of eating, but something was missing—the ohso-satisfying texture and flavor of bread-y things. Her quest to fulfill her fresh-baked cravings without using gluten or grains began in her apartment kitchen. Now it's flourishing in a dedicated facility and ready to satisfy your cravings, too. Grain-free, Gluten-free, and Paleo Certified, Base Culture is made with pure, simple non-GMO ingredients—the kind you could find in your own pantry. So, go on and have your banana bread, your favorite sandwich, your weekend brownie, and eat it too! Plus, here's an insider tip-pair Base Culture baked goodies with their Maple Almond Butter, your playlist of the week, and you! It's kind of life-changing.





Kirsten Quigley wants to help you live "a life less plastic™"!

"It is better to light a single candle than curse the darkness." It's a saying that inspires Kirsten Quigley, founder of Lunchskins, in her mission to help families reduce single-use plastic waste. By 2050, plastic in the ocean will outweigh fish, scientists predict. The need to find alternatives is urgent, so where are you in your plastic-free journey? Kirsten will meet you there with a straightforward solution-Lunchskins! Trade your plastic sandwich and snack-bags for sealable, backyard compostable, and recyclable paper bags! Wax and toxin-free, food-safe, and made with sustainably sourced wood pulp from Forest Stewardship Council® Certified forests-their stylish prints appeal to everyone in the family, and that's not all. Lunchskins also has paper straws "that don't suck"-long-lasting and biodegradable. When you're ready to take the next step in your journey, it's simple. Try Lunchskins reusable, dishwasher-safe, fabric bags-one for sandwiches, one for snacks. With over 2.8 billion single-use plastic bags and 2.6 million plastic straws (and counting) saved from landfills-light a candle with Kirsten, it adds up.





Experience the transformational power of food with founder and Clinical **Nutritionist, Sharon Brown!**

"Food as medicine"—this is Sharon Brown's passion. The spark first ignited when she experienced the transformational power of bone broth on her young son's health, and it changed her life's direction. Now, Sharon is spreading the transformation across the country with Bonafide Provisions-her line of bone-brothbased, healing foods. It all begins with the broth, which is "obsessively crafted and traditionally made." Pasture-raised bones, triple-filtered water, mineral-rich Celtic Sea Salt®, and organic veggies are the key to its nutrient-dense integrity and hearty flavor-no fillers, no preservatives, just purposeful ingredients sourced with care. Slow-simmered for a minimum of 18 hours, Bonafide's cooking times maximize the broth's immune-supporting, nurturing properties-amino acids and collagen. Frozen fresh to protect nutritional quality and flavor without preservatives, Bonafide Bone Broths and Soups are Certified Organic, non-GMO, paleo friendly, and loaded with homemade goodness. Sharon Brown believes that food can change lives—how about you?





Share a moment of joy with Christy Goldsby—she'll bring the chocolate-y treats!

The day Christy Goldby first made a batch of Honey Mama's, she knew. These exquisite bars, created with raw honey, cocoa powder, and a handful of other wholesome ingredients, were a game-changer. They were the essence of Christy's passions, great food, and good health combined in the shape of the most delicious chocolate-y bar you may have ever tasted (a sentiment echoed by many fans of Honey Mama's). Since that day, the recipe for these Cocoa Truffle Bars has never changed. Every bar has the same base of five organic ingredients, finished with heavenly elements like locally roasted coffee beans, lavender, rose petals, ginger, and cardamom (also organic). Paleo friendly and nourishingly indulgent, Honey Mama's makes its bars without dairy, gluten, refined sugar, or soy. Crafted in Portland, "while dancing to great music," they're in the graband-go refrigerated case of your nearest Natty GsSM—waiting to bring a moment of pure, joyful indulgence to your day. One bite, and you'll know.





Loree Mulay Weisman wants her delicious family secrets on your menu!

It's a delicious day in the neighborhood when you know Loree Mulay Weisman, the Founding President and CEO of Mulay's Sausage. Foodie, mom, avid skier, fearless leader—there are many ways to describe Loree, but when you taste Mulay's Sausage for the first time, the adjective that's top of mind is-brilliant! Followed by, give me more, please. The Mulay's difference begins with centuriesold recipes that Loree's family brought from Sicily. It's rooted in sustainability and quality, starting with Heritage breed pigs, raised on small family farms, with plenty of fresh air and outdoor access. It's anchored in paying farmers a living wage, negotiated at the beginning of every year and paid throughout, regardless of market fluctuations. Finally, Mulay's is extraordinary because they're WBENC certified women-owned and family-run. They're keto, paleo, gluten-free, and the first meat company to be certified free from the eight major allergens! Whether it's Meatballs, Breakfast Sausage, or Nana's Original Italian on the menu—it's a delicious day in the neighborhood when you know Mulay's.





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Discover a fresh, healthy way to brush your teeth every day!

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All Colors

All colors contain natural, hair-caring extracts and oils, such as aloe extract, shea butter, grape seed oil, citrus extracts, and more.

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Hyaluronic Acid Firming Serum

An ultra-concentrated hyaluronic acid gel that moisturizes the skin.

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Alcohol-Free Rose Witch Hazel 12 OZ.

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AVALON® All Products 30% Off

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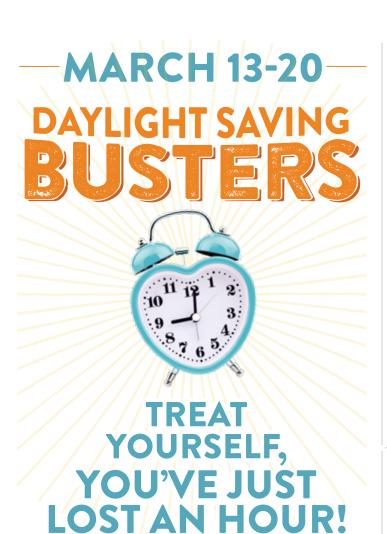
TEA TREE THERAPY® All Products 15% Off

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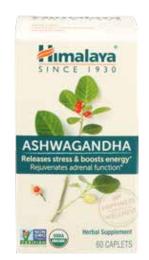


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NATURAL FACTORS

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BIRCH BENDERS

Select Waffles | 5.08-8.75 oz.

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CHOCOLOVE

Chocolate Covered Cups | 1.2 oz.

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Cheese Puffs | 5.5-7 oz.

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Still or Sparkling Spring Waters | 1 L

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4TH & HEART

Select Ghee | 9 oz.

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Organic Ice Cream | 48 oz.

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SOURCE NATURALS

Melatonin 2.5 mg Peppermint 60 loz.

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ORIGINAL RECIPE

SEAWEED BATH

Energizing Body Cream or Body Wash | 6-12 oz.

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DERMA•E

Vitamin C Bright Eyes Gel Pads | 3 oz.

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ADELICIOUS WAKE UP CALL ** At a Price That Won't Hurt Your Budget



NATURAL GROCERS™ BRAND ORGANIC GOURMET COFFEE

The aroma is as good as the first time you noticed it, but now it takes you places, and it brings you back. It's those Sunday mornings at your grandparents' house, as they divided up the comics over steaming mugs of coffee. It's the beginning of a crisp fall day when you have time to walk in the park and go exploring. It's faraway places where the coffee berries grow plump beneath tropical mists. It's a fresh cup of **Natural Grocers**' own gourmet coffee, waking up our neighborhood in creamy, citrusy, milk-chocolatey fashion. It comes

in BPA-free bags, certified organic and fair trade, from an employee-owned company who have the same enthusiasm for taking care of their neighbors as they do for making great coffee. It's six delicious varieties from classic blends like French Roast and Breakfast to single-origin beans. It's your new daily habit at a price so good that it won't hurt our budget. Gramps and Gram may have had better comics, but we have better coffee... and now you're old enough to try



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PACIFIC FOODS® Select Organic Broths 32 OZ.

These homemade-like broths taste like they have been gently simmering for hours. Which coincidentally, they have.

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These deliciously cheesy and crunchy cheese puffs are the snack attack you will be happy to have.

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BACK TO NATURE® Select Cookies

8-12 OZ. Chocolate Chunk Cookies will remind you of your first oven-baked cookie, so smile knowing that goodness makes a difference.

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(F)

BLUE DIAMOND® Nut-Thins Crackers 4.25 OZ.

A gluten-free snacking experience that's guaranteed to blow your taste buds out of the water.

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BOBO'S® Protein Bars 2.2 OZ.



Whole grain oats with a touch of honey and 10g of plant-based protein will keep you coming back for more.

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BELLUCCI® Organic 100% Italian Extra Virgin

Olive Oil 16.9 OZ.

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BIOKLEEN® Laundry Liquids 64 OZ.

This fragrance-free formula is gentle on senses and skin without sacrificing cleaning power.

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DR. BRONNER'S®

Sal Suds Biodegradable Cleaner

Dishes-floor-laundry-more—the ultimate multipurpose household cleaner!

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anthwatch:

E IN YOUR NEXT FORKFUL OF FOOD?

By Charity Isely

The global adoption of regenerative agricultural practices on both grassland and cropland could sequester more than 100 percent of current, human-caused CO₂ emissions. These are the findings of the latest Rodale Institute report, Regenerative Agriculture and the Soil Carbon Solution, which includes peer-reviewed research and the observations of seasoned agronomists, and data from Rodale's Farming Systems Trial, North America's longest-running side-by-side comparison of organic and conventional grain cropping systems.ⁱ²

"Regenerative agriculture is a system of farming principles that rehabilitates the entire ecosystem and enhances natural resources, rather than depleting them."3 lts practices improve soil health by increasing soil organic matter, of which biodiversity, both above and below ground, is a critical component. 4 It enhances soil's water retention capacity, improves its structure, and enables carbon sequestration at greater depths.⁵ Some of the regenerative practices identified in the report that support soil carbon sequestration include: diversifying crop rotations, planting cover crops, using natural sources of fertilizer such as compost, eliminating synthetic chemicals, and employing highly managed grazing. "These interlinked practices support soil life and minimize erosion by retaining biomass from a wide variety of living and dead roots, shoots, and microbes, which work together to sequester carbon."iv

The evidence is in the data. Consider these insights on regenerative practices included in the report:

- **BIODIVERSITY IS KEY:** Almost 60 percent more biomass from soil microorganisms and 80 percent more activity in soil life was found in organic farms than conventional, according to a review of more than 50 international studies.⁶
- POLYCULTURES PROTECT: The roots of diverse polycultures (multiple crop species planted side-by-side or in rotation) protect microbially derived soil carbon from decomposition, which is vital for long-term carbon storage.vii
- NITROGEN SOURCES ARE IMPERATIVE: Organic nitrogen sources, like compost and manure, feed the microbes responsible for carbon storage, and help nitrogen-fixing plants grow longer roots, allowing them to hold more carbon in the process. Legume cover crops, such as crimson clover, are twice as efficient as nitrogen fertilizer at storing soil carbon. And, after 34 years of Rodale's Farming Systems Trial, there were 18 to 21 percent higher soil organic carbon levels in the system fertilized with organic manure than the conventional.7

"To close the emissions gap, land use must transition rapidly from being a net source of emissions to a net sink."8 Grazing lands comprise more than 70 percent of the world's agricultural land area, and the most significant carbon sequestration potential identified by the Rodale report lies in this vast carbon sink. Regeneratively managed ruminant grazing can increase soil carbon storage at levels that more than offset their emissions, while providing other essential ecosystem services such as increasing essential minerals and general soil health.9

"Actual yields in well-designed regenerative organic systems... have been shown to outcompete conventional yields for almost all food crops including corn, wheat, rice, soybean, and sunflower."10 Many are skeptical that organic agriculture can feed the world, based on presumed yield gaps. The Rodale Farming Systems Trial provides evidence that regenerative organic practices can close the yield gap. Consider these highlights:

- NO STATISTICAL DIFFERENCE between the yields of conventional and organic plots over 40 years.xi
- 60 MORE BUSHELS PER ACRE of organic corn produced in 2016 by the no-till/manure system compared to the conventional corn yield that year.xi
- **30 TO 100 PERCENT HIGHER YIELDS DURING DROUGHT YEARS**, demonstrating the climate resilience of organic plots versus conventional.xi

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The Rodale report recommends these four actions for every eater who wants to make a difference: Put pressure on supply chains. Talk to your policymakers. Start a conversation. Buy regenerative. 11 At Natural Grocers, we help you take those steps through our dedication to organic and regenerative standards. Our produce department is 100 percent certified USDA organic. Our dairy is 100 percent pasture based. And our meat is 100 percent humanely raised and sustainably farmed. We are committed to providing our customers with environmentally sustainable and regenerative selections and work behind the scenes to support farmers and policymakers who share our commitment. Every forkful contributes either to the problem or the solution, because as Wendell Berry says, "Eating is an agricultural act."





\$<mark>2</mark>99



CHOCOLOVE®
No Sugar Added Chocolate Bars
3.2 OZ.

Chocolove's XO tastes so good, you might wonder if there really is no sugar added.

ALWAYS AFFORDABLE ™ 3.75





BOB'S RED MILL® Organic Unbleached White Flour

Includes a touch of malted barley to enhance the rise in your yeast breads.

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BOULDER CANYON® Potato Chips

Potato Chips 5 OZ.

These wavy Canyon Cut chips are cooked in pure avocado oil for a uniquely subtle, buttery flavor.

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CELESTIAL SEASONINGS®

Select Teas

18-20 CT

A blend of floral chamomile, aromatic citrus and sweet peaches give this brew a decadent peaches and cream flavor. Savor it both hot and iced.

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CLIF® Select Bars 2.4 OZ.



Made with organic rolled oats and 9 grams of protein, it helps provide the sustained energy you need to keep climbing higher.

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CROWN PRINCE NATURAL®Skinless Boneless Sardines in Olive Oil 3.75 OZ.

Hand filleted and hand packed in pure cold-pressed olive oil. Kosher; excellent source of protein.

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Chocolate Chips, Morsels or Chunks 9-10 OZ.

All Enjoy Life Foods products are free from gluten and 14 common food allergens.

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1.3-1.5 OZ. Bison Bacon Cran

Bison Bacon Cranberry snack bars are made with 100% grass-fed bison, uncured bacon, cranberries, and spices.

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FOOD SHOULD TASTE GOOD™ Tortilla Chips 5.5 OZ.

So tasty you can enjoy them alone but so good with a fresh dip.

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Real Spice for Real Bite. Because the best things in life can't be faked.

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FLAX 4 LIFE® Gluten-Free Muffins & Bites 14 OZ.

Treat yourself to a nutritious and delicious chocolate brownie! Packed full of rich, fudgy chocolate flavor that your tastebuds will love! GF)

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GRAIN BERRY®

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More Free Radical Protection • More Natural Plant Fiber • Slows Sugar Absorption*

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High Brew is an elevated experience with a "can"-do attitude. It's cold brew for those who do.

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Organic Gluten-Free Waffles

Honey Stinger Gluten-free Waffles are the first product of their kind that's certified gluten free and



HONEY STINGER® 1-1.06 OZ.

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Premium organic tomatoes and garden-fresh basil together in a rich, fragrant broth made from a medley or select organic vegetables.

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From sandwiches to snacks, these Justin's singleserving squeeze packs are a must have!

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Pure, natural, premium, award-winning spring water sourced in the heart of the Ouachita Mountains.

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A delicious gluten-free blend of unsweetened fruits, nuts, and spices.

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Lundberg Family Farms brings eco-friendly long grain rice and short grain rice to your table..

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MARY'S GONE CRACKERS® **Organic Superseed Crackers**

5-5.5 OZ.

Each serving of Super Seed crackers offers 5 grams of plant-based protein to fuel your lifestyle.

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Organic Restaurant Style Tortilla Chips

Thin, crispy & delicious, these melt-in-your-mouth tortilla chips are extra big and are perfect for dipping.

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USDA

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LOTUS FOODS® Rice Ramen

2807

Ready to eat in just four minutes! Add to soup or miso for a quick bowl of flavorful and nourishing noodles any time.

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Pure. Raw. Unfiltered. Kosher Certified and USA made—Natural Grocers Brand Clover Honey is a better way to sweeten!

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Organic Reduced Sugar Preserves 20.5 OZ.

Toast has never had it better than Natural Grocers' very own line of Organic Preserves.

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Select Organic Sunflower Seed Butters

For those with a nut allergy, sunflower seed butter is a perfect substitution!

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PAQUI® Tortilla Chips

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- No artificial ingredients, flavors or preservatives
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100% balanced nutrition, with added vitamins, minerals and other trace nutrients. No artificial preservatives, colors, or flavors.

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RISE BREWING CO.®

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Nitrogen-infused cold brew latte enhances the signature organic coffee with a dash of dairy-free oat milk.

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Did you know that quinoa provides all nine essential amino acids? It's perfect as a powerhouse addition to salads, as a staple side dish, or as a delicious meal of its own.

CHIA SEEDS ORGANIC

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ORGANIC BLACK CHIA SEEDS

(8 OZ. &1 LB. BAGS)

Let the magic of ch-ch-chia seeds catch onto your routine just by adding them to smoothies, yogurt, cereals, and more!



Nutrition

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NATURAL GROCERS BRAND BULK ORGANIC HONEY SRIRACHA CASHEWS

A little sweet and a little spicy. Each handful of our organic honey sriracha cashews comes packed with flavor, plus good4us fats, minerals, and free radical scavengers.*

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Give your dish that kick you're looking for with our organic red chili flakes. Sprinkle on top of your favorite pizza, stir-fry, pasta, and more!



Natural Grocers Brand Bulk ORGANIC SNACK ATTACK MIX

The name says it all! When a snack attack strikes, look no further than this salty, sweet, satiating mix.



Natural Grocers Brand Bulk **NON-GMO WALNUT** HALVES AND PIECES

Good-for-the-heart walnut halves and pieces are the perfect addition to nutritionally boost homemade yogurt parfaits, grandma's chocolate chip cookies, your next batch of brownies, or eat them straight from the bag!



Natural Grocers Brand Bulk **ORGANIC GROUND TURMERIC ROOT**

All that glitters is gold—especially when our golden turmeric root powder is included. Widely known for its health benefits*, get creative and add to biscuits and muffins, stir-fry and sauces, casseroles and curry



Natural Grocers Brand Bulk **ORGANIC GOLDEN FLAX SEEDS**

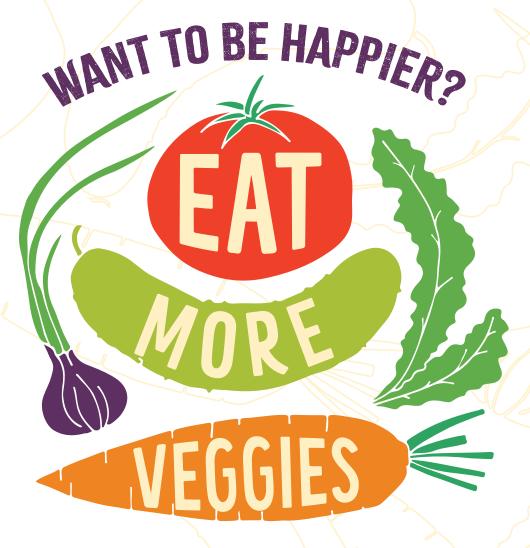
Flex your culinary muscle while showing your heart muscle some TLC with our unbeatable price of organic golden flax seeds! They're versatile and so good4uSM.



Natural Grocers Brand Bulk **NON-GMO WILD RICE** SESAME STICKS

In need of a new favorite snack? Follow the sesame stick wild rice crumbs all the way to our vast bulk aisles and grab a bag A-SAP!





With these 14 TIPS from our nutrition professionals, incorporating more veggies into your meals is a snap (pea)!

BY HEATHER PRATT, MNT

If you've heard it once, you've heard it a thousand times: Eat more vegetables! We all know that eating more vegetables is good for our physical health, but did you know that eating an abundance of veggies can also make you happier? Studies show that eating lots of vegetables make us feel good, increase our happiness and sense of wellbeing, increase our vitality and motivation, and even increase curiosity and creativity.

The trouble is, Americans fall woefully short of the government's two to three recommended servings of vegetables per day. Only nine percent of adults get that amount, and two of the top sources are potatoes, as chips and French fries, and tomatoes, from pizza sauce. Ye A recent survey of 2,000 American adults reported that 91 percent of respondents said corn was their favorite "vegetable" (corn is a grain, not a vegetable) and one in four respondents said they had never eaten a vegetable at all! But we want to do better: The same survey revealed that 72 percent of the people surveyed wanted to eat more vegetables. Ye We're here to help!

At Natural GrocersTM, we've long recommended 3-6 cups a day, and many studies support this recommendation to gain optimal health benefits. VI VIII If you're new to eating veggies, don't let the goal of 3-6 cups a day intimidate you. Start with what you know you like. If you like cucumbers and green beans, great! Eat them. Every day. Then make a commitment to try new vegetables and gradually increase your intake. Because we know dietary changes can be hard, we asked our nutrition professionals for their favorite tips—things they do themselves—to eat more veggies.



HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVORITES:

ROAST 'EM Roast a large batch of vegetables to keep in the refrigerator for easy access through the week—try sweet potatoes, beets, carrots, cauliflower, and/or broccoli. Warm or cold, roasted veggies are delicious additions to salads and grain bowls, served with fried or scrambled eggs for a quick breakfast, or eaten as a simple side. (Try our Organic Rainbow Roasted Veggie Bowl recipe on page 41!)

PREP 'EM A little prep goes a long way. Choose three or four of your favorite veggies to eat raw (think cucumber, sweet peppers, radishes, carrots), cut them up and divide them among small storage containers that are easy to bring on the go.

THINK OUTSIDE THE LETTUGE BOX Aim to eat at least one large salad with a variety of veggie toppings every day. And while we're talking salads, think outside of the lettuce box: try shredded cabbage topped with mint, cilantro, peppers, and cashews; chopped tomatoes, cucumbers, and fresh herbs; or thinly shaved fennel topped with slices of your favorite citrus fruit. There are many ways to eat salad, and it doesn't always have to include lettuce.

PIZZA - OH YEAH! Love pizza? Load it up with veggie toppings and after it has baked, add a heaping pile of arugula tossed in lemon juice and olive oil on top. Better yet, substitute your regular pizza crust for a cauliflower one!

FERMENT 'EM Keep your fridge stocked with sauerkraut and other fermented vegetables—they make easy, no-prep sides and snacks and are great toppings for sandwiches, wraps, and salads.

BLEND 'EM Toss a handful or two of baby spinach, frozen cauliflower, or frozen zucchini into your smoothie—once it's blended, you'll never know it's there. Roasted beets are also a fun addition to smoothies, adding a touch of sweetness and vibrant color.

SOUP'S ON Soups and stews are excellent places to load up on veggies. Most start with a base of sautéed onion and garlic, and it's easy to add extra veggies from there; think celery, carrots, potatoes, sweet peppers, green beans, zucchini, and greens like kale or collards.

DIP 'EM Sometimes a good sauce or dip is the key. Try buffalo sauce drizzled on roasted cauliflower, marinara dolloped over sautéed zucchini and eggplant, your favorite salad dressings repurposed as a veggie dressing (chopped celery mixed with blue cheese is a favorite), or pesto and hummus for raw-veggie dipping.

HIDE 'EM "Hide" veggies like chopped spinach, kale, shredded carrots, shredded zucchini, or finely minced mushrooms in meatloaf, taco meat, burgers, or spaghetti sauce.

SERVE 'EM Serve any type of entrée (chicken, steak, pork, fish, tofu, tempeh) over a big bed of greens lightly dressed with a dressing of your choice.

STOCK UP Keep your pantry and freezer stocked with canned and frozen veggies so you'll always have a quick and easy option on hand; just heat, season with sea salt and pepper, and add a healthy fat like grass-fed butter or coconut oil.

SWAP 'EM Swap out your refined carbs for veggies; try zucchini noodles ("zoodles") and spaghetti squash instead of pasta, and cauliflower "rice" instead of white rice.

BREAKFAST TIME Don't forget about veggies at breakfast! Try sautéed vegetables with eggs, finely shredded carrot and/or zucchini in pancakes or oatmeal, or even your favorite veggie-loaded lunch or dinner as your first meal of the day.

EXPLORE 'EM Explore new recipes. Find a few veggie-centric recipes that you love and keep them on regular rotation.

Eating vegetables every day is not as daunting as it may seem.

Find Recipes @ natural grocers.com/recipes



In fact, once you get in the habit, you may actually crave vegetables (gasp!). Maybe it's because they make you feel so good. And who among us couldn't stand to have a little more happiness in their lives?

References available upon request.



Natural Grocers™



SUPPORTING REPORT

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SOURCE: Sandhu, A., Seth, M., & Gurm, H. S. (2014). Daylight savings time and myocardial infarction. Open Heart, 1(1). doi: 10.1136/openhrt-2013-000019

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ORGANIC ROASTED VEGGIE **BOWL WITH SESAME**

TAHINI DRESSING

This Roasted Veggie Bowl makes it easy and delicious to "eat the rainbow." Roasting vegetables makes them easier to digest and enhances their flavor, while the creamy sesame tahini dressing takes eating your veggies to a whole new level of deliciousness!



1 medium organic sweet potato, sliced into ¼-inch rounds

2 medium organic Yukon Gold potatoes, sliced into 4-inch rounds

2 medium or 1 large organic carrot, ends removed, thinly sliced

1 medium organic beet, ends removed, sliced into 1/2-inch rounds

6-8 medium organic radishes, halved or quartered

4 tablespoons organic coconut oil, melted and divided

2 teaspoons Natural Grocers™ Brand Bulk Organic Curry Powder, divided

Natural Grocers Brand Bulk Real Salt, to taste

1 medium organic red pepper, core removed, thinly sliced

1 cup organic broccoli florets

2-2 ½ cups thinly sliced organic kale with the stems removed

<u>Dressing</u>

¼ cup organic sesame tahini

3 tablespoons Natural Grocers Brand Organic Apple Cider Vinegar

2 tablespoons organic tamari or coconut aminos

1 small organic garlic clove, minced

2-6 tablespoons water

Natural Grocers Brand Bulk Real Salt, to taste

Optional for topping

Sliced protein (chicken, steak, tofu, or tempeh), sliced avocado, sesame seeds or hemp seeds



INSTRUCTIONS

PREP TIME: 30 MINUTES COOK TIME: 40-45 MINUTES TOTAL TIME: 1 HOUR | SERVES 3-4

- 1. Preheat oven to 400° F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper and prep the sweet potatoes, potatoes, carrots, beet, and radishes.
- 2. Spread the sweet potatoes, potatoes, carrots, beets, and radishes onto the baking sheets. Drizzle with 2-3 tablespoons melted coconut oil and season with 1 teaspoon curry powder and salt to taste. Place in the preheated oven for 15 minutes. Remove each tray, one at a time, to turn the vegetables. Place back in the oven to roast for an additional 5-10 minutes.
- 3. While the vegetables roast, prep the red pepper, broccoli, and kale. In a mixing bowl, toss the red pepper and broccoli with 1 tablespoon melted coconut oil and season with ½ teaspoon curry powder and salt to taste.
- 4. After the root vegetables have roasted for 20-25 minutes (and are beginning

- to soften and brown), add the red pepper and broccoli to either baking sheet. Roast for 10 more minutes.
- 5. In the same bowl used for the red pepper and broccoli, toss the kale with the remaining coconut oil and curry powder.
- 6. In the last 5 minutes of roasting (when the vegetables are almost ready to serve), add the kale to either pan and roast until tender and bright green.
- 7. Stir together all dressing ingredients, except for the water, in a small bowl until smooth and creamy. Add 2 tablespoons water and stir to combine; if the consistency is too thick add additional water, 1 tablespoon at a time, until desired consistency is achieved.
- 8. To serve, divide vegetables among serving plates or bowls, drizzle with the tahini dressing, and add a protein or additional toppings if desired.

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NUTRITION BYTES

By Geoff Brokx and Aryn Doll

ECHINACEA IMPROVES MILD ANXIETY

Recent research shows that those suffering from mild anxiety may find relief in a supplement best known for supporting immunity: echinacea. Researchers in Budapest,

Hungary conducted a double-blind placebocontrolled study to examine the effects

of echinacea on anxiety scores for 62 adults with elevated anxiety. The subjects took one tablet of echinacea, containing 40 mg of echinacea extract, daily for seven days. The patients' anxiety scores were tracked for an additional three weeks after the treatment was discontinued.

Participants taking the echinacea extract showed significant improvements in anxiety scores compared to those taking the placebo after the seven-day treatment period. More surprisingly, these benefits remained persistent in the three weeks after they had stopped the echinacea

treatment. The researchers acknowledged

that echinacea is not a replacement for anxiety medication, but may offer another tool for people with mild anxiety. This study adds to the body of research highlighting the connection between the brain and immune system and may lead to further research examining the effects of what has been traditionally thought as immune supportive supplements for both cognitive function and mood.



FOOD'S POWERFUL EFFECT ON MOOD

Research shows that the quality of your diet can affect mental health, including mood and depression. For instance, while many often turn to sugary foods to provide a quick pick-me-up and mood boost, recent studies indicate that this strategy can actually worsen mood. And it doesn't take long for the effects to be seen, according to one recent meta-analysis. In this study, researchers analyzed data from 31 randomized-controlled trials to examine the acute

effects of eating refined sugars on mood in healthy adults. Results revealed that within just one hour of consuming refined sugars, participants experienced detrimental effects on mental health, including significant decreases in alertness and energy levels. A number of previous studies have established a link between diets high in sugar and depression.

AFTER JUST THREE
WEEKS OF CHANGING
THEIR DIET, PARTICIPANTS
REPORTED SIGNIFICANT
IMPROVEMENTS IN
DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS.

The good news, research also shows that cleaning up your diet and eating healthier can positively impact mood, and quickly too! In one 2019 study, young adults with depression symptoms were asked to decrease their intake of processed food and sugar (particularly from refined carbohydrates and soft drinks) and switch to a Mediterranean-style diet. This included eating five servings of vegetables per day, two to three servings of fruit, and increasing their intake of other health-promoting

foods like fish, nuts and seeds, olive oil, and spices like turmeric and cinnamon. After just three weeks of changing their diet, participants reported significant improvements in depression symptoms and lower levels of anxiety and stress. If one thing is clear, simple strategies such as improving the diet go a long way in supporting overall health, including improved mental health.

References available upon request.

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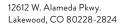


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