## Sage Lentils with Squash and Mushrooms

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By: Sharon Palmer

Makes 10 cups

Prep Time: 20 minutes Ready in 40 minutes



"This hearty lentil stew features inky-black beluga lentils prepared with tender delicate squash, mushrooms, and aromatic sage."

## **INGREDIENTS**

- 1 medium, delicate squash
- 1 cup chopped red onion
- 3 cups sliced fresh crimini mushrooms
- 1 cup chopped **orange sweet pepper**
- 2 tsp. dried sage, crushed
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 tsp. smoked paprika
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- -- Sea salt, to taste (optional)
- 3 cups **vegetable stock**
- 11/2 cups beluga lentils, rinsed and drained
- 1/2 cup unsweetened apple juice

## **PREPARATION**

- 1. Cut squash in half lengthwise; remove seeds. Do not peel. Cut squash into ¼-inch thick slices.
- 2. In a large skillet cook squash and onion over medium 2 minutes, stirring occasionally and adding water, 1 to 2 Tbsp. at a time, as needed to prevent sticking.
- **3.** Add the next six ingredients (through black pepper). Cook and stir 2 minutes more. If desired, season with salt.
- 4. Stir in stock and lentils. Bring to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer, covered, 20 minutes. Stir in apple juice; simmer uncovered, 10 minutes more or until mixture is thick and lentils are tender. (If the mixture becomes too dry, gradually add a little water to moisten.)



