



## FOOD PRESERVATION

# How to Use Dried Foods

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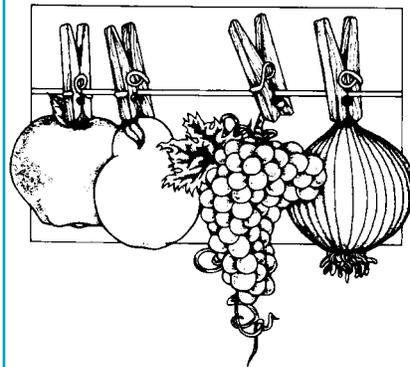
**D**ried vegetables and fruits provide convenient and delicious additions to family meals. They can be used alone, in combination with other foods, or served for an accent to add flavor. Most uses require that the food be rehydrated, usually referred to as refreshing.

Refreshing is done by soaking or cooking (or a combination of both) the dried food in water until the desired volume is restored. The amount of water and the length of time needed to refresh 1 cup of dried food can be found in Table 1, page 2.

If properly pretreated with steam or water blanching before drying, vegetables need a minimum of refreshing.

Refresh vegetables such as spinach, kale, cabbage, chard or tomatoes by covering them with hot water and simmering to desired tenderness.

### Quality for Keeps



Soak root, stem and seed vegetables  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours in enough cold water to keep them immersed. After soaking, simmer until vegetables are tender and excess water evaporates.

If dried vegetables are added to boiling water, it takes less time for refreshing.

Soak dried fruits in hot water and then cook, if appropriate, in the soaking water. If extra water is needed for preparation, it can be added after the soaking period. Do not add sugar until fruit is tender because sugar will toughen the product.

Dehydrated vegetables are best used as ingredients for soups, casseroles, sauces and stews. However, they may be served alone with the addition of butter, cheese sauce or herbs to enhance flavor.

Dried vegetables that have been refreshed take less time to cook than fresh vegetables. Vegetables should be simmered to the desired degree of firmness.

Dried fruits can be eaten as is or refreshed and cooked until tender. Spices or flavorings such as cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg can be used to enhance flavor. Dried fruits can be used in cobblers, breads, pies or puddings.

Dried foods should be refreshed only when ready to use. Do not store rehydrated foods. Drying temperatures are not high enough to destroy all microbes, and after rehydration spoilage can occur quickly.

## Campfire Corn Chowder

(4 to 6 generous servings)

- ½ cup dried corn
- 1½ cups water
- 4 strips bacon
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cups water
- 1 medium potato, diced
- 2½ cups water
- 2 cups nonfat dry milk
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1½ teaspoons salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper

1. Rehydrate corn in 1½ cups of water. Allow to stand for at least 30 minutes.
2. Brown bacon in soup pot until crisp. Remove and drain. Brown onion in bacon fat until tender. Add onion to bacon.
3. Discard all fat except for 2 tablespoons.
4. Place undrained rehydrated corn into soup pot. Add two more cups of water. Boil for 45 minutes. If necessary, add more water to maintain volume.
5. Add diced potato and cook until tender.
6. Combine premeasured milk, flour, salt and pepper mixture with 2-1/2 cups water and mix well.
7. Add milk mixture to the pot and bring to a simmer, stirring occasionally.
8. Add onions and crumbled bacon. Stir well. Serve with crackers or homemade bread.

*Backpackers: Save trouble by mixing dry milk, flour, salt and pepper before leaving home.*

Table 1. Refreshing dried food.

<b>Product (hours)</b>	<b>Amount of water to add to 1cup dried food</b>	<b>Minimum soaking time</b>
Beans, green snap	2½	1
Beets	2¾	1½
Carrots	2¼	1
Cabbage	3	1
Corn	2¼	½
Okra	3	½
Onions	2	¾
Peas, green	2½	½
Squash	1¾	1
Spinach	1	½
Sweet potatoes	1½	½
Turnip greens and other greens	1	¾
Apples	1½	½
Pears	1¾	1
Peaches	2	1¼

*Note: For vegetables, use boiling water; for fruits, use water at room temperature.*

## Creamed Corn

(serves 6)

- 1 cup dried corn
  - 4 cups boiling water
  - 1 teaspoon sugar
  - ½ cup cream
  - 1 tablespoon butter
  - ½ teaspoon salt
  - ¼ teaspoon pepper
1. Add dried corn to boiling water. Allow to stand for 20 minutes.
  2. Simmer corn until tender, approximately 1 hour. Drain off excess water (save for soup or gravy).
  3. Add sugar, cream, butter, salt and pepper to the drained corn.
  4. Bring to a simmer, stirring frequently.

## Corn Fritters

- 1 cup dried corn
  - 4 cups boiling water
  - 1½ cups flour
  - 1 teaspoon baking powder
  - 1½ teaspoons salt
  - 2 eggs, beaten
  - ½ cup milk
1. Add corn to boiling water and allow to stand for 20 minutes.
  2. Simmer corn until tender, approximately 1 hour. Drain off excess water (save for soup or gravy).
  3. Sift flour, baking powder and salt into a bowl.
  4. Combine the beaten eggs and milk, mixing well.
  5. Add the liquid to the flour mixture all at once and stir the mixture until smooth.
  6. Fold in the corn.
  7. Drop batter from a teaspoon into a well-greased frying pan and cook until brown on all sides.
  8. Remove and drain on absorbent paper. Serve hot.

## Winter Corn Pudding

(serves 6)

- ¾ cup dried corn
  - 3 cups boiling water
  - 2 eggs, slightly beaten
  - 2 tablespoons butter, melted and slightly cooled
  - 2 cups light cream
  - 2 tablespoons onion, chopped
  - 1 tablespoon sugar
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - ½ teaspoon pepper
1. Rehydrate corn by adding to boiling water and allow to stand for 20 minutes.
  2. Simmer corn until tender, approximately 1 hour. Drain off excess water (save for soup or gravy).
  3. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F and grease a 1 quart casserole.
  4. In a large bowl, combine corn, eggs, melted butter, light cream, onion, sugar, salt and pepper.
  5. Pour into the greased casserole and bake for 35 minutes or until knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

## Green Bean Casserole

(serves 4)

- 2 cups water
  - 1 cup cut green beans, dried
  - 1 can mushroom soup
  - ¼ teaspoon onion powder
1. Bring water to a boil.
  2. Add beans and cook to desired degree of firmness.
  3. Add soup as is, do not reconstitute.
  4. Add onion powder.
  5. Simmer in saucepan until heated through and serve.
- VARIATION — Place in one-quart casserole. Top with bread crumbs or french fried onion rings. Bake in 325 degrees F oven for 30 to 35 minutes.

## Vegetable Soup

- 4 cups water
  - ¾ to 1 cup dried vegetables (green beans, corn, peas, tomatoes, onions, etc.)
  - 2 packages beef bullion granules or 4 cubes
- Seasonings to taste such as herbs, soy sauce, or curry
1. Bring water to a boil. Add dried vegetables, bouillon and seasonings.
  2. Simmer about 20 minutes or until vegetables are tender though chewy. (Freshly dried vegetables will not take as long to reconstitute as those that have been stored for a long time.)
- VARIATION — Add ½ cup cooked rice, noodles or barley with the other ingredients, or add ¼ to ½ cup dried jerky, cut in bite-size pieces. Using low-sodium soup granules or bouillon cubes will allow those on low-sodium diets to enjoy this versatile recipe.

## Beef Vegetable Soup

- 1 soup bone (with some meat)
  - 1 cup assorted dried vegetables (corn, peas, beans)
- If not among dried vegetables:*
- 1 large celery stalk
  - 2 carrots
  - 1 medium onion
  - 1 tablespoon dried parsley
  - 1 tablespoon salt
  - ¼ teaspoon pepper
1. Cover soup bone with water. Cook 1 hour over medium heat.
  2. Pour boiling water over dried vegetables just to cover. Soak 1 hour. (Do not drain).
  3. Dice celery, carrots, and onion; add all vegetables, dried parsley and seasoning to beef bone. Simmer 1 to 1-1/2 hours.
  4. Remove bone, dice meat and return to pot. Season to taste and serve hot.

## Instant Soup Cup

- 1 tablespoon powder from dried vegetables (such as peas)
  - ¼ cup dried milk
  - ¾ cup boiling water
1. Pulverize dried vegetables into powder in a blender or food processor at the highest speed.
  2. Mix powder with dried milk. Place in cup and add boiling water. Stir.
- For better flavor, soup may be simmered. Dried potato flakes may be added, if desired, to thicken soup.*

## Apple Pie

- One 9-inch pie crust
  - ¼ pound dried apple slices (3½ cups)
  - 2 cups water
  - ½ to ½ cup sugar
  - ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- Crumb topping:*
- ½ cup flour
  - ¼ cup brown sugar
  - 2½ tablespoons butter or margarine
1. Cook dried apples in water until soft, about 1 hour. Add additional water, but not an excessive amount. Do not drain.
  2. Add sugar and cinnamon.
  3. Pour into prepared pie shell.
  4. Mix topping until crumbly and sprinkle over pie.
- NOTE — Either sweet or sour apples may be used in drying. Sweet apples such as Red Delicious are used for sweet schnitz (dried apples), and the peel is left on to ensure a rich flavor. If a tart flavor is preferred, use late fall or early winter fully matured apples. No research is available on the suitability of current commercial varieties of apples. Dry a small amount of a variety and test by using it in one of your favorite recipes before drying large amounts of that variety.

## Pork and Apple Bake

Rehydrate dried apple rings by soaking 1 hour or until soft in boiling water (just enough to cover). Brown pork chops, season, and pour off grease. Arrange, one layer deep in a casserole. Cover chops with apple slices, add water in which apples were soaked and enough more to barely cover chops. Bake at 350 degrees F for 35 to 40 minutes.

## Apple Coffee Cake

(serves 18)

2 cups dried apples  
1 teaspoon lemon juice  
½ cup margarine  
¾ cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1½ cups flour  
½ teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
½ cup milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla

### *Topping:*

½ cup sugar  
2 teaspoons cinnamon

1. Place dried apples and lemon juice in a bowl. Add enough water to cover and soak for 1 hour.
2. Cream margarine and sugar.
3. Add eggs and beat well.
4. Sift together flour, salt and baking powder. Add to creamed mixture.
5. Add milk and vanilla. Beat well.
6. Pour into two 9-inch greased and floured cake pans.
7. Top with drained, rehydrated apple slices.
8. Combine sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle evenly over apples.
9. Bake at 375 degrees F for 35 to 40 minutes.

For more information on this subject and many others, visit the MU Extension Publications Web site at:

<http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore>

**Table 1 and recipes from Home Drying of Foods, Information Bulletin 120, Revised edition, 1983. Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.**



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