



| Monday             | Tuesday                 | Wednesday               | Thursday                  | Friday                      |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2                  | 3                       | 4                       | 5                         | 6                           |
| Meatloaf           | BBQ Chicken             | Beef Patty              | Sliced Ham                | Chicken Chef Salad          |
| Brown Gravy        | Mashed Red Potatoes     | Baked Beans             | Baked Sweet Potato        | Cucumber Salad              |
| Lima Beans         | Creole Green Beans      | Lettuce   Tomato        | Cabbage                   | Broccoli Salad              |
| Sliced Carrots     | Texas Bread             | Hamburger Bun           | Cornbread                 | Saltine Crackers            |
| Dinner Roll        | Seasonal Fruit          | Hot Cinnamon Applesauce | Chocolate Pudding         | Cinnamon Cake               |
| Seasonal Fruit     | Milk                    | Chocolate Milk          | Milk                      | Milk                        |
| Milk               | Margarine               | Ketchup                 | Margarine                 | Salad Dressing              |
| Margarine          | Ū                       |                         |                           |                             |
| 9                  | 10                      | 11                      | 12                        | 13                          |
| Smoked Sausage     | Chicken Tenders         | Bowtie Lasagna          | Pork Roast                | ~Father's Day Meal~         |
| Red Kidney Beans   | Garlic Whipped Potatoes | Whole Kernel Corn       | Brown Gravy               | Baked Chicken               |
| Parslied Rice      | Glazed Carrots          | Green Beans             | Parslied Rice             | Poultry Gravy               |
| Spring Vegetables  | Wheat Bread             | Texas Bread             | Spinach                   | Chunky Potatoes             |
| Wheat Bread        | Marble Cake             | Seasonal Fruit          | 100% Fruit Juice          | ,<br>Winter Vegetables      |
| Seasonal Fruit     | Milk                    | Milk                    | Cornbread                 | Dinner Roll                 |
| Milk               | Margarine               | Margarine               | Fudge Creme Cookie        | Devil's Food Cake           |
| Margarine          | Ketchup                 |                         | Milk                      | Milk                        |
|                    |                         |                         |                           | Margarine                   |
| 16                 | 17                      | 18                      | 19                        | 20                          |
| Salisbury Beef     | Cheese Omelet           | Chicken & Sausage Gumbo | Glazed Ham                | Meatballs w/Spaghetti Sauce |
| ,<br>Brown Gravy   | Sausage Patty           | Steamed Rice            | Black-eyed Peas           | Spaghetti Noodles           |
| Northern Beans     | O'Brien Potatoes        | Potato Salad            | Cabbage                   | Green Beans                 |
| Sliced Carrots     | 100% Fruit Juice        | 100% Fruit Juice        | Cornbread                 | 100% Fruit Juice            |
| Wheat Bread        | Biscuit                 | Saltine Crackers        | Chocolate Swirl Pudding   | Wheat Bread                 |
| Seasonal Fruit     | Graham Crackers         | Bread Pudding           | Milk                      | Seasonal Fruit              |
| Milk               | Chocolate Milk          | Milk                    | Margarine                 | Milk                        |
| Margarine          | Margarine               |                         | 5                         | Margarine                   |
| 23                 | 24                      | 25                      | 26                        | 27                          |
| Smoked Sausage     | Baked Meatballs         | Taco Meat               | Sliced Turkey Breast      | ~Birthday Meal~             |
| Red Kidney Beans   | Brown Gravy             | Lettuce   Tomato        | Poultry Gravy             | Chicken & Sausage Jambalaya |
| Parslied Rice      | Delmonico Potatoes      | Pinto Beans             | Ranch Potatoes            | Parslied Carrots            |
| Broccoli Florets   | Green Beans             | Whole Kernel Corn       | Green Peas                | Brussels Sprouts            |
| Wheat Bread        | Wheat Bread             | Flour Tortilla          | Dinner Roll               | Wheat Bread                 |
| Rice Krispie Treat | Seasonal Fruit          | Seasonal Fruit          | Mississippi Mud Pudding   | Birthday Cake               |
| Milk               | Milk                    | Milk                    | Milk                      | Milk                        |
| Margarine          | Margarine               | Taco Sauce              | Margarine                 | Margarine                   |
| 30                 |                         |                         |                           |                             |
| Meatloaf           |                         |                         |                           |                             |
| Brown Gravy        |                         |                         | Menu follows state        |                             |
| Lima Beans         |                         |                         | guidelines for nutrients. |                             |
| Sliced Carrots     |                         |                         |                           |                             |
| Dinner Roll        |                         |                         |                           | Community Meals             |
| Seasonal Fruit     |                         |                         |                           | Nourishment through         |
| Milk               |                         |                         |                           | compassionate care.         |
| Margarine          |                         |                         |                           |                             |
|                    |                         |                         |                           |                             |

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Eating a nutritious diet does not have to be bland and boring. Spices and herbs bring flavor, health, and creativity to your meals. They not only reduce inflammation and boost immunity but also inspire you to experiment with bold, delicious combinations. Transform ordinary dishes into something extraordinary while supporting your overall well-being!

#### Spot the Difference

Understanding the difference between herbs and spices can help you make the most of their unique flavors and health benefits. While both come from plants, their characteristics and uses vary, making them versatile tools for enhancing your meals.

- **Herbs:** Green leafy parts of plants, used in fresh or dried form. Examples: Parsley, Basil, Cilantro, Chives
- **Spices:** Non-leafy parts of the plant (e.g., roots, bark, seeds), used in dried form only. Examples: Cinnamon (bark), Turmeric (root), Ginger (rhizome), Paprika (dried fruit pods)

## Antioxidant Power

Herbs and spices are rich in antioxidants, compounds that protect your cells from damage caused by free radicals which reduce the risk of chronic diseases like heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. Herbs and spices with the highest number of antioxidants include cloves, peppermint, allspice, cinnamon, oregano, thyme, sage, rosemary, saffron, and tarragon.

### **Functional Benefits**

- Anti-inflammatory: Helps reduce inflammation (e.g., turmeric, ginger, cinnamon).
- **Digestive Health:** Aids digestion and relieves bloating (e.g., fennel, peppermint).
- Immune Support: Boosts immunity with antibacterial properties (e.g., garlic, oregano).
- **Heart Health:** Reduces sodium and sugar intake, supporting cardiovascular wellness (e.g., all herbs & spices).

# Sourcing, Storing, and Using Herbs & Spices

- **Dry Herbs & Spices:** Opt for bulk by filling your own containers to reduce packaging waste. Store in airtight containers in a cool, dark area. Replace after 2-3 years.
- Fresh Herbs G Spices: Grow your own or buy local at a farmers market. Keep in the refrigerator in an airtight container. Wash before use.
- **Conversion:** Substitute one-part dried for three parts fresh when needed.
- **Salt Last:** Season with herbs and spices before adding salt; you may not need it at all.
- **Cooking:** Typically, add dried herbs and spices early in the cooking process to rehydrate and add fresh later to preserve flavor.

Resources: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK92763/#:~:text=When%20sorted%20by%20antioxidant%20content,to%20277%20 mmol%2F100%20g. | https://www.eatright.org/food/food-preparation/herbs-and-spices/get-to-know-your-spice-rack | doi: 10.3390/antiox6030070 ELIOR NORTH AMERICA

