

# Butternut Squash Soup

*bacon + apple + cheddar + sage + cranberry*

**Yield:** 8-10 servings



## Ingredients

### Soup:

- 8 oz bacon
- 12 oz chopped yellow onion (about 1 medium onion)
- 5 oz chopped carrot (about 2 small carrots, peeled)
- 3 oz chopped celery (about 1 stalk)
- 10 oz chopped apple (about 2 small apples)
- 2 lb chopped butternut squash (about 1 large squash, peeled & seeded)
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
- 8 sage leaves, chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 ½ quarts chicken stock
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 12 oz shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- Salt & pepper

### Topping:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 6 oz diced apple (about 1 small apple)
- 5 oz dried cranberries (about 1 cup)
- Crumbled bacon
- 10 sage leaves, chopped
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

## Directions

### Soup:

In a large pot, cook the bacon. Remove it to a paper towel-lined plate and set aside. In the same pot over medium heat, add the onion, carrots, celery, apples, and

butternut squash to the leftover bacon drippings. Season with salt and pepper. Cook for about 15 minutes until the onions are soft, stirring occasionally. Add thyme, sage, and bay leaves. Cook for 1 minute before adding the chicken stock. Bring the stock to a boil and then reduce to a simmer. Cover and cook until the squash is tender. Remove the bay leaves. Transfer the hot soup to a blender or food processor and blend until smooth, working in batches. When all of the soup is blended, stir in the heavy cream and cheddar cheese. Season to taste (I added about 2 teaspoons of salt and 1 teaspoon of pepper). Serve warm.

### **Topping:**

Crumble the reserved bacon. In a medium sauté pan, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the diced apple and dried cranberries. Cook for just a couple of minutes (the apples should still be slightly crisp). Stir in the bacon and sage to heat through. Add the apple cider vinegar, salt, and pepper. Continue to cook for a minute or two longer, reducing some of the vinegar.

### **To serve:**

Ladle the soup into a bowl and pile a generous amount of topping on top. Garnish with sage (for presentation) if you'd like.

### **Kayla's Notes**

This recipe makes roughly 80oz of soup. I usually serve 8oz portions, but you can vary this amount to serve more or less people.