

FIG FRUITY PROTEIN SMOOTHIE

INGREDIENTS:

- 11 almonds; or 3 Tbsp of almond nut butter**
- 2 figs** (fresh or dried)
- 1 banana**
- 2 prunes**
- 1 cup of revitalized or pure spring water** (adjust for thickness)
- 1 tsp of quality brand bee pollen**
- 1 Tbsp of *Omega Nutrition* Pumpkin Seed Protein Powder (*PSPP)**
- 1 Tbsp of *Omega Nutrition* Cold Milled Flax Seeds**

DIRECTIONS:

Soak the almonds in water overnight, or in hot water until the skin softens. Peel the skin off under running water, and add them into a blending container. Soak the figs in hot water for a few minutes to soften. Remove any stems, rinse, and slice them into the container. Peel the banana and slice it into the container. Rinse the prunes, remove the pits, then add them into the mixture. Add the water. To warm use boiled water. Add the Bee Pollen, Pumpkin Seed Protein Powder, and Cold Pressed Flax Seeds. Blend the ingredients into a creamy smoothie. ENJOY for breakfast!

Serves 1

Use **organic** ingredients

Suitable for blood type O

For blood type A, eliminate the banana

For blood types B & AB see: **Nutty Blueberry, Cherry, or Peachy Yogurt Smoothie**

*PSPP provides a higher concentration of protein than pumpkin seeds. If PPSP is not available, use ¼cup of fresh, raw pepitas/pumpkin seeds.

Almonds are actually the seeds of the fruit of the almond tree, which is a cousin of the peach, cherry, and apricot trees. Almonds are classified into two categories: sweet (*Prunus amygdalu var. dulcis*) and bitter (*Prunus amygdalu var. amara*). The sweet variety, with its buttery taste, is the type eaten.

Almonds originated in western Asia and north Africa. Romans referred to them as the “Greek nut” in reference to the civilization who had first cultivated them.

Spanish missionaries brought almonds to California, several hundred years ago, where they thrived. Almonds are also grown in Mediterranean countries including Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Morocco.

Almonds contain 28 essential nutrients including vitamins, minerals, fatty acids, protein, and fiber. They are a rich source of vitamins E and B2, biotin, manganese, copper, phosphorus, magnesium, molybdenum, and fiber. Once for ounce, almonds are one of the most nutritionally dense nuts. Along with vitamin E, they are a good source of powerful antioxidants, including flavonoids.

Almonds provide protection against diabetes and cardiovascular disease. They can help reduce cholesterol levels and C-reactive protein (a marker of artery-damaging inflammation) as much as first generation statin drugs.

The skin contains phytic acid and enzyme inhibitors that can interfere with absorption of nutrients. Removing the skin helps overcome this. However, recent studies found potent antioxidants in skin, such as catechins (found in green tea) and naringenin (found in grapefruit). Perhaps, the solution is to activate the almonds or consume a small amount of them with their skin.

Homemade almond milk is far superior to commercial almond milk because it is unprocessed, contains all its enzymes, and does not contain any added ingredients.

Almond nut butter provides another option for enjoying the benefits of almonds in a more easily digested form.

While roasting loses some of the nutrition and may damage their valuable oils, dry roasting at a low temperature 160-170°F or 75°C minimizes this.

Almonds in their shell have the longest shelf life. Shelled almonds with their skin, in a sealed container/bag are a more convenient option and will last longer than almonds from a bulk bin. AVOID split, chopped, blanched, or slivered almonds as they quickly go rancid or moldy when exposed to moisture, air, light, and/or heat.

Select organic or spray-free almonds that are fresh and nicely colored. Read the ingredients on the label to make sure they do not contain sugar, corn syrup, flavors, vegetable oil, or preservatives. Store them in a sealed container in the fridge, or a cool dry pantry away from sunlight. Refrigerated almonds will keep for several months.

Figs grow on the Ficus tree (*Ficus carica*), which is a member of the Mulberry family. They were first cultivated in Egypt, spread to ancient Crete, and then to ancient Greece around the 9th century BC, where they became part of the traditional diet. Figs were revered and considered sacred by ancient Greeks and Romans. They have a unique opening called the 'ostiole' or 'eye,' which helps the fruit develop and communicate with the environment. Figs were introduced to regions of the Mediterranean by conquerors and to the Western Hemisphere by the Spaniards, in the early 16th century. Though first introduced to California, in the 19th century, it wasn't until the 20th century that they were commercially cultivated and processed. California, Turkey, Greece, Portugal, and Spain are the largest producers of figs.

The majority of figs are dried making them nutritiously sweet. Figs are a good source of fiber, pantothenic acid, copper, manganese, and potassium. They also contain small amounts of retinoids and carotenoids (vitamin A), vitamins B and K, calcium, magnesium, and other minerals. The nutrients and fiber in figs help control blood pressure, protect against breast cancer, macular degeneration, and with weight management.

There are over 150 varieties, including Black Mission (blackish-purple skin/pink flesh), Kadota (green skin/purplish flesh), Calimyrna (greenish-yellow skin/amber flesh), Brown Turkey (purple skin/red flesh), and Adriatic (light green skin/pink-tan flesh), which are used to make fig bars.

AVOID commercial figs that are treated with sulfur dioxide gas and sulfites, which are especially bad for asthmatics.

Fresh figs are highly perishable and last only a few days. Select ripe figs with a rich, deep color that are plump, firm and tender, but not mushy. Avoid sour smelling fruit. Store them in a paper lined container in the fridge.

Select dried figs that are relatively soft, free of mold and with a mild sweet smell. Store them in a sealed container in the fridge, for up to several months. To soften and clean, soak briefly in water, then rinse.

Bananas are thought to be native to Malaysia around 4,000 years ago. From there they spread throughout the Philippines and India, where Alexander the Great's army recorded them being grown in 327 BC. Arabian traders then brought them to Africa. When Portuguese explorers discovered them in 1482, they took them to the Americas. Bananas now grow in most tropical and subtropical regions. The main commercial producers are Costa Rica, Mexico, Ecuador, and Brazil.

Bananas, including plantains, belong to the *Musaceae* family of plants. They are a rich source of potassium, manganese, copper, biotin, magnesium, and fiber. Bananas are also high in vitamins C, B6, B3, B2, folate, pantothenic acid, alpha and beta carotene, lutein, and zeaxanthin. This makes them especially beneficial for cardiovascular health, blood pressure and heart function. They are also good for athletic performance.

Though bananas are naturally sweet and creamy, they have a low glycemic index (GI) because of their high and unique fiber content. As bananas ripen and soften, their water-soluble pectin (fiber compounds) and fructose content increase, which in turn moderates carbohydrate digestion and blood sugar levels. In addition they contain unique fructose-containing carbohydrates that are not broken down by enzymes in the digestive tract. When in the lower intestine/colon, they become metabolized by bacteria. This process helps maintain the balance of "friendly" bacteria (e.g. *Bifidobacteria*) and overall colon and digestive health.

Bananas come in numerous varieties such as Cavendish, Big Michael, Martinique, and Lady Finger. The less sweet, more starchy plantain bananas, with their higher beta carotene content, are cooked like vegetables since they are unsuitable to eat raw.

Select yellow sweet bananas that are slightly ripe but still firm. Plantains are larger and more green or dark (black) when ripe. Do not refrigerate unripe bananas. To ripen bananas store them at room temperature in a paper bag. Brown or dark spots indicate that they have ripened and are sweeter. To stop the ripening process store them in the fridge, but bring them back to room temperature before consuming.

Prunes, which are actually dried plums, originated from the Caspian Sea area over 2,000 years ago. Scientifically they are known as *Prunus domestica*, and belong to the *Prunus* genus of plants, which are relatives of the peach, nectarine, and almond. In Ancient Rome, there were over 300 varieties.

The Pilgrims introduced European varieties into the U.S. in the 17th century. Japanese varieties, originally from China, were introduced into the U.S. in the late 19th century. California, where the drying of prunes took hold in the middle of the 19th century, is now the world's leading producer of prunes.

Though naturally very sweet, prunes release their sugars slowly because of their high soluble (60% pectin) and insoluble fiber content. Thus, they help eliminate waste, lower cholesterol, and in the prevention of heart disease and cancer. Their insoluble fiber also promotes friendly bacteria in the large intestine, contributing to colon health and in the relief of constipation.

Prunes/dried plums are high in unique phytonutrients and increase the absorption of iron. They are also rich in potassium, manganese, iron, vitamins K, B, and C, beta carotene, lutein/zeaxanthin, phenols, and other antioxidants. The phenols, neochlorogenic and chlorogenic

acid in prunes neutralize superoxide anion radicals and prevent oxygen-based damage to fats.

A new variety of plum, called Queen Garnet, has recently been developed in Australia. It has exceptional health benefits, with its high amount of anthocyanin and ability to assist in weight loss.

Select prunes that are rich in color, plump, shiny, relatively soft, and free of mold and preservatives such as sulfites. Prunes can last up to 6 months when refrigerated in an airtight container. To soften and clean, wash in water.

Dancourt Trading, Australia <http://www.dancourt.com.au/nuts/> 617 5437-0930

Eco Farms, Australia: <http://www.ecofarms.com.au/> 612 9764-2833 & 617 3892-2400

Eden Health Foods Australia: <http://www.edenhealthfoods.com.au> 612 6585-3534

Food To Live, USA: <https://foodtolive.com/> 347 713-4968

Hiltona/Brooke-Kelly's Organic Fruits, Australia: 612 6383-3229

J.C. Quality Foods Pty Ltd, Australia: <http://www.jcsqualityfoods.com.au/> 613 9764-0517,
NZ 0800 527 695

Newman's Own Organics, Snowden Bros., Morning Glory, & other reputable brands, USA

Nuts.com, USA: <https://nuts.com/nuts/walnuts/organic.html> 1 800 55806887

Omega Nutrition, USA & Canada: <http://www.omeganutrition.com/> 1 800 661-3529

Sun Organic Farms, USA: <http://www.sunorganicfarm.com/> 1 760 510-8077/888 269-9888

SunFood Super Foods, USA: <http://www.sunfood.com/> 1 888 729-3663

Taylor Brothers Farms, USA: <http://taylorbrothersfarms.com/> 1 530-671-1505

The Vortex Water Revitalizer, Canada: <http://www.alivewater.com/> 1 888 644-7754