### Farm to School: Highlighting Local Fruits & Vegetables

Fruit & Vegetable

Materials to inspire your USDA Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

## - CELERIAC -



eleriac is a root vegetable in the Parsley family. It is also known as the turnip-rooted celery, a variety of celery that has been harvested specifically for its large, starchy root. It is harvested when it reaches about 10-15 cm in diameter and can be eaten raw or cooked. It is a good alternative to starches, such as potatoes, and is closely related to parsnips, carrots, parsley, and anise.

#### History

Celeriac was a favorite in old France where it was steamed in lemon juice and then dressed in a mustard mayonnaise. It has also been known to have medicinal and religious uses in early Egypt, Greece, and Italy.



#### **Botanical Facts**

Celery and celeriac are evolved from the same plant, *Apium graveolens.* They were cultivated to enhance their desired traits; the root for celeriac and the shoots for celery. While they originate form the same plant, they have very different uses; celeriac as a starchy root, and celery as a fresh vegetable.

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# More about.. CELERIAC



- Celeriac is similar to celery, with a mild, more nutty, and slightly sweeter flavor.
- It is native to the Mediterranean Basin and Northern Europe and originally grew wild.
- The root is called the hypocotyl.
- It is most commonly used in mashes, soups, casseroles, and savory dishes.

### Storage

Celeriac can be kept in the refrigerator or cool dark space for several weeks. Make sure to dry it, cut off any remaining greenery and place in a plastic bag with some ventilation. It does well at very cool temperatures between 32°F and 41°F but should not be frozen.

See RECIPES section on our website for recipe ideas

### **Preparing & Cooking Celeriac**

- Cut the green ends off the top of the root. Then peel and halve the root. It can be shredded, julienned, sliced, mashed, and served raw on a salad or as a dipping stick.
- Celeriac necessitates a short cooking time to maintain flavor. About 10-15 minutes boiling, or 12-18 minutes steaming. Add lemon or vinegar to cooking water to avoid oxidation.
- It is tasty drizzled with olive oil, salt and pepper and roasted.
- Celeriac is delicious in a root mash, mixed with parsnips, potatoes, and turnips.
- Celeriac is also wonderful in soups. Add it to minestrone or to a seasonal favorite such as sweet potato or squash soups.

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## **Nutrition Facts**

Celeriac is a good source of fiber, magnesium, manganese, vitamins B6, C, K, as well as phosphorus and potassium. It is low in saturated fat and has very low cholesterol.

### NUTRITION FACTS

Serving Size 156g

Calories 22	Calories	from Fat 4
	% Da	ily Value*
Total Fat 0g		1%
Saturated Fat 0g		1%
Trans Fat		
Cholesterol 0mg		0%
Sodium 16mg		7%
Total Carbohydrate 5g		5%
Dietary Fiber 2g		11%
Sugars 3g		
Protein 1g		
Vitamin A 0%	<ul> <li>Vitami</li> </ul>	n C 21%
Calcium 7%	• Iron	6%

NutritionData.com