

THE A - Z FOOD SUBSTITUTIONS EBOOK

Including Options for Vegan, Gluten-Free, Low-Sugar, Low-Fat, Low-Sal t, and Lactose-Free

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The A to Z Food Substitutions

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ABALONE, FARMED, FRESH - 1 pound

- 8 ounces dried abalone/pao yu, soaked in water for 3 to 4 hours
- 1 pound French conch, tenderized like fresh abalone
- 1 pound fresh clam meat

ABURAGE See TOFU, DEEP-FRIED

AÇAI (South American antioxidant-rich purple berry) - 3.5 ounce-packet frozen pulp/puree

- 1/2 to 3/4 cup dried Chilean wineberries/maqui berries, soaked in liquid for 30 minutes (higher in antioxidants)
- 1 cup fresh or frozen wild blueberries (lower in antioxidants)
- 1 cup fresh, or 1/2 cup dried, blue Oregon grapes/*Mahonia aquifolium/Berberis aquifolium* (lower in antioxidants; much tarter; press fresh berries through a food mill to remove large seeds)
- 1 cup fresh silverberries/*Elaeagnus umbellata* or *E. multiflora* (lower in antioxidants; higher in vitamin C and lycopene; press through a food mill to remove large seeds)

AÇAI JUICE (antioxidant-rich juice) - 1 cup

- 2 tablespoons freeze-dried açai powder mixed with 1 cup water
- 2 tablespoons maqui berry powder mixed with 1 cup water (higher in antioxidants)
- 1 cup 100% blueberry juice, preferably fresh-pressed (lower in antioxidants)
- 2 tablespoons freeze-dried blueberry powder mixed with 1 cup water (lower in antioxidants)

ACHIOTE/ACHUETE See ANNATTO OIL; ANNATTO SEEDS

ACHIOTE PASTE/RECADO ROJO (Latin American seasoning and coloring) - 1 tablespoon

- 1 tablespoon Sazon Goya Seasoning
- 2 teaspoons ground annatto seeds or powdered annatto/bijol (for coloring; lacks seasoning)

• 1 teaspoon paprika (for coloring only)

ACIDULATED WATER (anti-browning agent for certain cut fruits and vegetables) - 1 cup

- 1 cup water plus 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt (rinse well with fresh water after soaking)
- 1 cup water plus 1 teaspoon distilled white vinegar
- 1 cup water plus 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 cup water plus small pinch ascorbic acid granules, or 1 (250-mg) pure vitamin C pill crushed to a powder
- 1 cup apple juice (for holding prepared apples)

ACITRÓN (Mexican candied cactus pieces) - 4 ounces

• 4 ounces candied pineapple

ACORN SQUASH, FRESH (oval-shaped, orange-fleshed winter squash) - 1 pound

• 1 pound buttercup, butternut, Musquée de Provence, or Rugosa squash

AGAR/AGAR AGAR/KANTEN (gelling agent derived from seaweed) - 2 teaspoons powdered

- 3 tablespoons agar flakes or threads (increase soaking time to 10 to 15 minutes)
- 1 freeze-dried agar bar torn into pieces (increase soaking time to 30 or more minutes)
- 1 (1/4-ounce envelope/1 scant tablespoon) unflavored gelatin powder (follow package directions)
- 4 sheets silver leaf gelatin (follow package directions)
- 2 1/2 teaspoons apple pectin powder (follow package directions)

AGAVE SYRUP/NECTAR, LIGHT OR DARK (honey-like sweetener made from agave cactus plants) - 1 tablespoon

- 4 teaspoons brown rice syrup or coconut nectar
- 1 tablespoon palm honey/syrup, heavy/rich simple syrup, or Swedish light syrup/*ljus sirap*
- 2 teaspoons maple syrup, liquid honey, or barley malt syrup, plus 1 teaspoon water

• 1 tablespoon Jerusalem artichoke syrup (more expensive)

AGAVE SYRUP/NECTAR, LIGHT OR DARK - 1 cup

- 7/8 cup grade A dark, robust maple syrup plus 1 tablespoon water
- 3/4 cup mild-flavored liquid honey, such as acacia or clove, plus 2 tablespoons water
- 1 cup birch syrup
- 1 cup double-strength simple syrup (for drinks) *See SYRUP*, *SIMPLE/STOCK SYRUP*, *RICH/DOUBLE STRENGTH*
- 1 cup raw cane double-strength simple syrup made with coarse-grained unrefined sugar, such as turbinado or Demerara (for drinks)

AGRETTI/ROSCANO/SALTWORT, FRESH (Italian leafy green vegetable) - 1 pound

• 1 pound young puntarelle, dark outer leaves of escarole, nasturtium greens, or tender young dandelion greens (less salty tasting)

AGRODULCE (sweet-sour flavoring agent) - 1 cup

Make Your Own Bring 1/2 cup red wine vinegar and 1/2 cup sugar to a boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Cool and store in a tightly sealed jar in the refrigerator; it will keep indefinitely.

AGRUMATO-LEMON OIL (Italian citrus oil) See LEMON-OLIVE OIL

AISH BALADI (Egyptian flatbread)

• Whole-wheat pita bread

AJI AMARILLO/AJI ESCABECHE, FRESH OR FROZEN (yellow Peruvian chile) - 1

- 1 dried *aji mirasol* chile, soaked in hot water for 15 to 20 minutes
- 1 fresh yellow Hungarian wax/banana chile
- 1 large fresh red jalapeño chile
- 1 canned or jarred whole aji amarillo, rinsed
- 1 tablespoon jarred aji amarillo paste/pasta de amarillo
- 1 teaspoon aji mirasol powder/aji molido
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper

AJI AMARILLO CHILE POWDER/AJI MOLIDO (Peruvian) - 1 teaspoon

- 1 teaspoon aji amarillo paste/pasta de amarillo
- 1 teaspoon hot paprika mixed with 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper or crushed red pepper flakes

AJI AMARILLO PASTE/PASTA DE AMARILLO (Peruvian condiment) - 1 tablespoon

• 1 tablespoon sambal oelek (for a small amount)

AJI CACHO DE CABRA See GOAT'S HORN PEPPER

AJI DULCE/AJI CACHUCHA (tiny Caribbean sweet peppers) - 6 to 10

- 6 to 10 rocotillo chiles
- 1 fresh Cubanelle pepper
- 1/2 fresh bell pepper

AJI LIMO, FRESH OR FROZEN (spicy Peruvian chile) - 1

- 1 Scotch bonnet or habañero chile
- 1 fresh serrano or jalapeño chile (milder)
- 1 jarred aji limo, drained

AJI PANCA, DRIED (large, mild Peruvian chile) - 1

- 1 dried ancho, guajillo, New Mexico, or aji mirasol chile
- 1 teaspoon aji panca chile powder or aji mirasol chile powder
- 1 tablespoon jarred aji panca paste

AJI ROCOTO/LOCOTO, FRESH OR FROZEN (medium-hot red Peruvian chile) - 1

- 1 fresh Mexican manzano chile
- 2 or 3 fresh red serrano, Tabasco, or Thai chiles (for flavoring; less intense)
- 2 or 3 fresh red jalapeño or Fresno chiles (for stuffing or garnish)
- 2 to 3 rinsed rocoto/locoto peppers in brine (for flavoring)
- 1 tablespoon *aji rocoto* paste (for flavoring)

AJI VERDE (Peruvian condiment) - 1 cup

• 1 cup Mexican tomatillos salsa/salsa verde plus 2 tablespoons grated Cotija cheese/queso añejo blended until smooth

AJWAIN/AJOWAN/CAROM SEEDS (Indian and Pakistani seasoning) - 1

teaspoon

- 3/4 teaspoon lovage seeds plus 1/4 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
- 1 packed teaspoon dried thyme leaves, finely crumbled

AKEE/ACKEE (Caribbean fruit) - 2 dozen akees (1 cup edible flesh)

• 1 (18-ounce) can akee, rinsed and drained

ALATOPIPERIGANO (Greek seasoning salt) - 1 tablespoon

• 2 teaspoons dried Greek oregano plus 1 teaspoon sea salt and a few grains of black pepper (stir before using to redistribute)

ALCAPARRADO (Caribbean and Latin American condiment) - 2 tablespoons

- ullet 1 tablespoon each drained and chopped pimiento-stuffed olives and brined capers
- 1 teaspoon each diced green olives, red pimiento, capers, and a touch of garlic

ALEPPO/HALABY CHILE, DRIED/PUL BIBER (Turkish/Middle Eastern) - 1

- 1 dried Marash chile (smokier and spicier)
- 1 dried Antebi chile (milder and fruitier)
- 1 dried Urfa chile/Isot pepper (sweeter and smokier)
- 1 fresh or dried cayenne or serrano chile (more readily available)

ALEPPO/HALABY CHILE POWDER (Turkish/Middle Eastern) - 1 teaspoon

- 1 teaspoon Urfa or ancho chile powder
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

ALEPPO/HALABY PEPPER FLAKES (Turkish/Middle Eastern) - 1 teaspoon

- 1 teaspoon Marash pepper flakes/maras biber (smokier)
- 1 teaspoon Urfa pepper flakes/*Urfa biber* (darker colored; smokier tasting)
- 3/4 teaspoon Aleppo, Urfa, or ancho chile powder
- 3/4 teaspoon gochugaru chile flakes or powder
- 3/4 teaspoon Hungarian sweet/mild paprika plus 1/4 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

ALFALFA SPROUTS See SPROUTS

ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR See FLOUR, ALL-PURPOSE

ALLSPICE, JAMAICAN/PIMENTO BERRIES, DRIED - 1 teaspoon ground

- 1 teaspoon ground Mexican or Central American allspice (larger berries; less aromatic)
- Scant 1/2 teaspoon each ground cloves and cinnamon plus scant 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon plus 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves

ALMOND BUTTER - 1 cup

• 1 cup coconut butter, cashew butter, hazelnut butter, peanut butter, or tahini

Make Your Own Grind 2 cups roasted almonds with 1/2 teaspoon sea salt (optional) in a food processor until reduced to a paste, about 10 minutes, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed. Transfer to a sterilized jar and store in the refrigerator; it will last for up to 4 weeks.

ALMOND EXTRACT - 1/2 teaspoon

- 1 drop bitter almond oil
- 1/2 teaspoon amaretto extract
- 1 tablespoon almond-flavored liqueur

ALMOND FLOUR See ALMOND MEAL

ALMOND FLOUR, TOASTED - 1 cup

Make Your Own Spread 1 cup almond flour on a baking sheet and toast in a preheated 350°F oven until golden, 6 to 7 minutes.

ALMOND LIQUEUR/ALMOND-FLAVORED SPIRIT (such as amaretto, crème d'amande, or ratafia) - 1 tablespoon for cooking

• 1/4 teaspoon almond extract plus 1 tablespoon vodka or water

ALMOND MEAL - 1 cup

- 1 cup almond flour/powder (finer texture; more expensive)
- 1 cup hazelnut or chestnut flour (finer exture; more expensive)
- 1 cup pumpkin seed or sunflower seed meal (denser texture; best for cookies and muffins)

Make Your Own Grind 1 1/2 cups sliced or slivered almonds in a blender or

food processor until mealy (add a teaspoon or more of sugar or flour from the recipe to avoid oiliness or freeze the almonds before grinding). Alternatively, grind the almonds in batches in a spice/coffee grinder, then strain and regrind any large pieces. Store, refrigerated, in an airtight container; it will keep for up to 6 months.

ALMOND MILK - 4 cups

- 4 cups purified water plus 1/2 cup smooth raw almond butter, processed in a blender or food processor until smooth
- 4 cups unsweetened hazelnut, walnut, or soy milk

Make Your Own Soak 1 to 2 cups freshly blanched raw almonds in water to cover for 10 to 12 hours. Drain, rinse, and then blend with 4 cups water until smooth, 3 to 4 minutes. Strain through a nutmilk bag or cheesecloth-lined sieve, pressing firmly on the pulp to extract all the liquid. Keep refrigerated and shake before using. It will keep for up to 5 days. (For thinner milk, increase water to 5 cups; for more nutritious milk, blend the almonds with fresh coconut water.)

ALMOND PASTE - 1 cup

Make Your Own Pulse 1 cup finely ground blanched almonds, 3/4 cup granulated sugar, 2 tablespoons water, and 1/2 teaspoon pure almond extract in a food processor until a paste forms, and then knead until smooth. It will keep, well-wrapped, for up to 1 month in the refrigerator, or up to 1 year in the freezer.

ALMOND SYRUP/ORZATA (Greek) - 1/4 cup

- 1/4 cup orgeat syrup
- 1/4 cup amaretto-coffee flavoring syrup
- 1/4 cup simple syrup (*See SYRUP*, *SIMPLE*) flavored with 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon almond extract, plus a few drops of rose water or orange-flower water, if available

ALMONDS, GREEN, FRESH (soft, unripe almonds) - 1 cup for cooking

- 1 cup mature blanched almonds, gently boiled in 4 cups water until softened, about 2 hours (replace water as needed)
- 1 cup mature blanched almonds, soaked for 8 to 12 hours in 2 cups warm water containing 1 teaspoon baking soda

ALMONDS, MARCONA ROASTED (soft flat Spanish almonds) - 1 pound

- 1 pound California blanched almonds, soaked in salted water for 8 to 12 hours; drained, tossed with 1 tablespoon olive oil, then toasted at 300°F until dry, 10 to 15 minutes, stirring halfway through
- 1 pound oven-roasted almonds, such as Blue Diamond

ALMONDS, SWEET - 1 cup shelled

• 1 cup shelled and skinned hazelnuts

ALUM/ALUMINUM POTASSIUM SULPHATE (firming agent for pickles)

- Pickling lime/cal/calcium hydroxide (use as a soak following package directions)
- Pickle Crisp granules/calcium chloride (add to the brine following package directions, usually 0.1 to 0.4 percent diluted in 2 tablespoons purified water, or 1/8 teaspoon added directly to a hot canning jar before filling)
- Freshly washed grape, oak, or sour cherry leaves for naturally fermented pickles (add to the jar, using 1 leaf per 4 or 5 cucumbers)
- Unrefined sea salt (use as the salt ingredient; contains traces of nitrate)

AMARANTH FLOUR - 1 cup

- 1 cup brown rice flour
- 1 cup sorghum flour
- 1 cup light-colored teff flour

AMARANTH GRAIN - 1 cup

- 1 cup quinoa or Bolivian canahua
- 1 cup millet (like amaranth, it tastes best when lightly toasted in a dry skillet before adding liquid)

AMARANTH GREENS/CHINESE SPINACH/QUINTONILES/TAMPALA - 1 pound

- 1 pound Swiss chard leaves
- 1 pound small flat-leaf spinach or baby spinach
- 1 pound lamb's quarters
- 1 pound New Zealand spinach/warrigal greens
- 1 pound young pumpkin greens
- 1 pound quinoa greens

• 1 pound orach/mountain spinach

AMARILLO PEPPER See AJI AMARILLO

AMCHUR/AMCHOOR/GROUND MANGO POWDER (Indian souring agent) - 1 teaspoon See also MANGO, GREEN

- 1 piece/section of sun-dried amchoor/dried mango (remove before serving if added to curry)
- 1/2 teaspoon tamarind powder
- 1/3 teaspoon powdered citric acid (found in the canning section of the supermarket)
- 1 teaspoon ground sumac or powdered lemon peel
- 1 to 2 teaspoons very finely grated lemon zest (spread it out to dry slightly before using; for sprinkling as a garnish)

AMMONIUM BICARBONATE/AMMONIUM CARBONATE/HARTSHORN/BAKER'S AMMONIA (leavening agent) - 1 teaspoon finely crushed

- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon single-acting, aluminum-free baking powder
- 1 1/4 teaspoons baking soda

ANAHEIM CHILE, FRESH (mild green chile) - 1

- 1 fresh New Mexico, poblano, or Hungarian wax chile
- 1 frozen green chile, thawed; or canned whole green chile, drained (half a 4-ounce can)
- 1 fresh bell pepper, Cubanelle pepper, or sweet banana pepper, plus a pinch of New Mexico Hatch green chile powder

ANARDANA See POMEGRANATE SEEDS, DRIED SOUR

ANCHO CHILE (dried red poblano chile) - 1

- 1 dried black Urfa chile
- 1 dried choricero pepper
- 1 dried California, guajillo, mulato, pasilla, or New Mexico chile, plus a pinch of sweet smoked paprika
- 1 tablespoon ancho chile powder (or pasilla or New Mexico Hatch chile powder plus a small pinch of mild/sweet smoked paprika)

- 1 tablespoon ancho paste
- 1/2 teaspoon Urfa chile flakes/*Urfa biber*, or ground cayenne pepper

ANCHO CHILE PASTE See CHILE PASTE, MILD

ANCHO CHILE POWDER - 1 tablespoon See also CHILE POWDER, MILD

- 1 medium ancho chile, dry toasted, stemmed, and ground
- 1 tablespoon New Mexico, pasilla, or mild chile molida powder
- 1 tablespoon ancho pepper paste
- 1 1/2 to 2 tablespoons hot Hungarian paprika

ANCHOVY FILLETS, FRESH - 4 ounces

- 4 ounces brined white anchovy fillets/boccarones, rinsed and patted dry (softer)
- 4 ounces small, fresh sardines, smelt, or sprats/brislings (firmer and meatier)

ANCHOVY FILLETS, OIL PACKED - 2 fillets (1 1/2 teaspoons finely chopped)

- 2 to 3 salt-packed anchovy fillets, rinsed, or 1 salt-packed anchovy, rinsed and filleted (firmer texture; soak in water until flexible, 5 to 10 minutes, or 30 minutes to remove salt)
- 1 to 1 1/2 teaspoons anchovy paste or extract (contains vinegar and sugar)
- 1 or 2 fresh, frozen, or canned smelts
- 1/2 teaspoon Asian fish sauce, such as *nam pla* or *nuoc nam*; Filipino anchovy/shrimp sauce/*bagoong isda*; or vegetarian fish sauce/*nuoc mam an chay*
- 1 teaspoon Japanese *ayu* fish sauce (less salty)
- 1 generous tablespoon drained chopped capers

ANCHOVY PASTE - 1 teaspoon

- 1 salt-packed anchovy, rinsed, boned, minced, and mashed to a paste with a little olive oil
- 1 oil-packed anchovy fillet, rinsed, minced and mashed to a paste (or put through a garlic press)
- 1 firmly packed tablespoon finely chopped water-packed tuna
- 1 teaspoon dark miso, such as inaka or hatcho

- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce plus 1/2 teaspoon powdered kelp or crushed dried dulse flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar-free Asian fish sauce or Italian anchovy syrup/colatura di alici

ANCHOVY SAUCE/MAM NEM (Vietnamese cooking condiment) - 1 tablespoon

• 2 teaspoons anchovy paste plus 1 teaspoon water

ANDOUILLE (Creole/Cajun garlicky smoked pork sausage) - 1 pound

- 1 pound turkey andouille, or vegetarian andouille, such as Soyrizo
- 1 pound Spanish dry-cured chorizo, Portuguese dry-cured chouriço or linguiça, or other spicy ready-to-eat sausage
- 1 pound smoked kielbasa (meat or turkey) plus a small dash of hot pepper sauce such as Tabasco or Crystal

AÑEJO See COTIJA/QUESO AÑEJO

ANGELICA STALKS, FRESH - 1 pound

- 1 pound wild angelica/Angelica atropurpurea (more bitter)
- 1 pound fresh lovage stalks

ANGLED LOOFAH SQUASH See CHINESE OKRA

ANISE EXTRACT - 1 teaspoon

- 1 1/2 tablespoons anise seeds, ground in a mortar or a spice/coffee grinder
- 2 teaspoons ground anise seeds
- 1/8 teaspoon anise oil

ANISE HYSSOP/LICORICE MINT/AGASTACHE FOENICULUM, FRESH - 1 tablespoon chopped

- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh Korean mint/*Agastache rugosa* or young Mexican giant hyssop
- 1 1/2 teaspoons each chopped fresh thyme and mint

ANISE LIQUEUR/ANISE-FLAVORED SPIRIT (such as Absente, arak, Herbsaint, ouzo, pastis, Pernod, Ricard, sambuca, xtabentún, or other unsweetened anise-flavored spirit) - 1 tablespoon for cooking

ullet 1 tablespoon vodka plus 1 teaspoon ground anise seeds

• 1/2 teaspoon anise extract plus 2 teaspoons water

ANISE SEEDS - 1 teaspoon

- 2 whole star anise pods, crushed or coarsely ground, or 1 1/2 teaspoons broken pieces
- 1/4 teaspoon anise extract
- 1 1/4 teaspoons fennel or caraway seeds

ANNATTO OIL/ACEITE/MANTECA DE ACHIOTE (Latin American coloring agent) - 1/4 cup

• 1/4 cup olive oil plus 1 teaspoon sweet paprika

Make Your Own Slowly heat 1 to 2 tablespoons annatto seeds and 1/4 cup vegetable oil until the oil turns orangey-red and the seeds begin to crackle, 5 to 7 minutes; strain and cool. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator; it will keep for up to 1 year. (For annatto chili oil, include 1 small crushed dried red chile when heating the seeds and oil.)

ANNATTO SEEDS/ACHIOTE (Latin American and Caribbean coloring agent) - 1 teaspoon

- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon liquid annatto (from cheese making suppliers)
- 1/2 teaspoon finely ground annatto seeds or achiote powder/bijol
- 3/4 teaspoon achiote paste/condimento de achiote (contains oregano and other ingredients), or Yucatan achiote paste/recado rojo/Achiote recado (contains garlic and vinegar)
- 1 teaspoon pesticide-free dried marigold petals, preferably pot marigold/*Calendula officinalis*, steeped in 1 or 2 tablespoons warm water for 5 minutes (use the liquid for color and discard the petals)
- 1/4 teaspoon sweet California or Hungarian paprika and 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric, preferably Madras
- 1/2 teaspoon crumbled azafrán (Mexican saffron) or 1/8 teaspoon pure saffron

ANTHOTIRO/ANTHRÓTYRO (soft white goat's or sheep's milk Greek cheese) - 1 ounce

- 1 ounce fresh manouri, mizithra, or ricotta, plus a little finely grated feta (for fresh)
- Aged ricotta salata, aged mizithra, Pecorino Romano, or Parmesan (for