SUMMER SALAD WITH ORANGE-GINGER DRESSING

Zucchini and yellow squash are bountiful during the summer months, but usually come in the grilled variety. Try them fresh and crisp in this summer salad with a light and delicious citrusscented vinaigrette that won't leave you feeling heavy in any way. I used a mandoline slicer, which did most of the work, but I don't mind julienning vegetables by hand even if it is more time-consuming.

INGREDIENTS

½ red bell pepper, julienned
1 carrot, julienned
½ medium zucchini, julienned
½ yellow squash, julienned
½ head of Napa cabbage, thinly sliced

ORANGE-GINGER DRESSING

teaspoon white sesame seeds
 teaspoon black sesame seeds
 tablespoons tahini
 tablespoons tamari
 tablespoons rice vinegar
 tablespoon honey
 tablespoon sesame oil
 teaspoons orange zest
 teaspoon ginger, minced (use a zester if you have one)
 tablespoons avocado oil

MAKES TWO DINNER OR FOUR SIDE SALADS

1 Cut the bell pepper in half. Remove the ribs, seeds, and any white filaments. Slice the bell pepper into very thing, long strips. Place in a large serving bowl.

2 Set a mandoline slicer to julienne-mode, and slice the carrots, zucchini, and yellow squash. Alternatively, you could use a julienne peeler. (If you have neither, then cut the carrot into 1-inch pieces. Then cut about ¼-inch planks lengthwise. Lay the planks flat and cut long strips. Repeat for the zucchini and yellow squash.)

3 Wash and dry the Napa cabbage. Remove the thick ribbing. Lay several leaves together cut into thin slices.

4 In a dry skillet toast the white and black sesame seeds for 1-2 minutes or until the white seeds turn golden. Set aside in a plate.

5 To make the vinaigrette, combine whisk together tahini, tamari, rice vinegar, honey, sesame oil, orange zest, minced ginger, and avocado oil.

6 Combine the vegetables in a large serving bowl. Toss with dressing and top with the sesame seeds.