

Skillet Apple Crisp

From the episode: *All-American Fruit Desserts*

Serves 6 to 8

If your skillet is not oven-safe, prepare the recipe through step 3 and then transfer the filling to a 13 by 9-inch baking dish. Top the filling as directed and bake for an additional 5 minutes. We like Golden Delicious apples for this recipe, but any sweet, crisp apple such as Honeycrisp or Braeburn can be substituted. Do not use Granny Smith apples in this recipe. While rolled oats are preferable in the topping, quick-cooking oats can be substituted. Serve the apple crisp warm or at room temperature with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.


INGREDIENTS

TOPPING

3/4 cup (3 3/4 ounces) unbleached all-purpose flour

3/4 cup pecans , chopped fine

3/4 cup old-fashioned rolled oats (see note)

1/2 cup (3 1/2 ounces) packed light brown sugar 

1/4 cup (1 3/4 ounces) granulated sugar

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon table salt

8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter , melted

FILLING

3 pounds Golden Delicious apples (about 7 medium), peeled, cored, halved, and cut into 1/2-inch-thick wedges (see note)

1/4 cup (1 3/4 ounces) granulated sugar

1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon (optional)

1 cup apple cider

2 teaspoons juice from 1 lemon

2 tablespoons unsalted butter

INSTRUCTIONS

1. FOR THE TOPPING: Adjust oven rack to middle position and heat oven to 450 degrees. Combine flour, pecans, oats, brown sugar, granulated sugar, cinnamon, and salt in medium bowl. Stir in butter until mixture is thoroughly moistened and crumbly. Set aside while preparing fruit filling.

2. FOR THE FILLING: Toss apples, granulated sugar, and cinnamon (if using) together in large bowl; set aside. Bring cider to simmer in 12-inch oven-safe skillet over medium heat; cook until reduced to ½ cup, about 5 minutes. Transfer reduced cider to bowl or liquid measuring cup; stir in lemon juice and set aside.

3. Heat butter in now-empty skillet over medium heat. When foaming subsides, add apple mixture and cook, stirring frequently, until apples begin to soften and become translucent, 12 to 14 minutes. (Do not fully cook apples.) Remove pan from heat and gently stir in cider mixture until apples are coated.

4. Sprinkle topping evenly over fruit, breaking up any large chunks. Place skillet on baking sheet and bake until fruit is tender and topping is deep golden brown, 15 to 20 minutes. Cool on wire rack until warm, at least 15 minutes, and serve.

TECHNIQUE

3 STEPS TO GREAT APPLE CRISP

Traditional apple crisp is never terrible, but it's often flawed by unevenly cooked apples and a topping more mushy than crisp. Here's how we turn a decent dessert into something great.

1. CREATE APPLE

CONCENTRATE Reducing cider and adding it to the



filling concentrates the fruity flavor, even when apples are out of season.



2. CREATE CARAMELIZED

APPLES Sautéing sugared apples in butter contributes caramelized flavor and allows for stirring, so slices turn out evenly cooked.



3. TRANSFER TO OVEN

Just 15 minutes at 450 degrees browns the topping without overcooking the apples and keeps the topping from turning mushy.



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