Phytonutrients!

Serve a Rainbow with these antioxidant powerhouses!

What are phytonutrients?

Phytonutrients are compounds naturally found in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, beans, and tea leaves.

Why are they important?

- High in antioxidants to support free radical stabilization.
- Contain anti-inflammatory properties to reduce the risk of chronic disease.
- The source of polyphenols i.e. the chemicals that result in the robust color of fruits and vegetables!

Almost 10,000 phytonutrients have been identified! Below are a few common examples:

Flavonoids

Most abundant phytonutrient! Includes quercetin, catechins and anthocyanins.

Carotenoids

Includes alpha-carotene, beta-carotene, and lutein.

Chlorophyll Gives plants the bright green color and is crucial to trap light for photosynthesis.

Tudoles

When cut, chewed, or cooked can form indole-3-carbinol.

Mix and match produce from each group to maximize health benefits!

Red

Benefits:

Helps protect against prostate cancer, reduces risk of stroke

Specific nutrients:

Lycopene (laikow-pene) and Anthocyanins (an-tho-sai-anin)

Orange/Yellow

Benefits:

Keeps eyes and skin healthy, antioxidant

Specific nutrients:

Alpha and Beta-Carotene

Green

Benefits:

Improves eve health, reduces the risk of certain cancers

Specific nutrients:

Lutein (lu-teen). Indoles

Blue/Purple

Benefits:

Helps memory, anti-aging, heart Specific nutrients:

Polyphenols and anthocyanins

White Tan/

Brown

Benefits:

Lowers blood cholesterol, supports the immune system

Specific nutrients:

Allium and Flavonoids

