

POTASSIUM

WHAT IS IT?

Potassium is a mineral that helps your nerves and muscles work the right way. It is necessary for the body to keep a normal balance between cells and body fluids. All foods contain some potassium, but some contain larger amounts.

In some people with CKD, the kidneys may not remove extra potassium from the blood. Normal kidney function will remove potassium through urination. Kidneys that are not functioning properly cannot remove the potassium in the urine, so it builds up in the blood. This can be very dangerous to your heart.

High potassium can cause irregular heartbeats and can even cause the heart to stop if the potassium levels get too high. Some medicines also can raise your potassium level. Your food choices can help you to lower. Or make your have higher levels of level.

You will know if your potassium is high thru blood test. Often people do not feel any different when there potassium is high. The level of potassium in your blood should be between 3.5 to 5.0

The best way to lower your potassium is by diet.

- Eat smaller portions of foods high in protein at meals and for snacks.
- Use spices and herbs in cooking and at the table. Salt substitutes often contain potassium and should not be used.
- Potassium chloride can be used in place of salt in some packaged foods, like canned soups and tomato products. Limit foods with potassium chloride on the ingredient list.
- Drain canned fruits and vegetables before eating.
- If you have diabetes, choose apple, grape, or cranberry juice when your blood sugar goes down.
- Choose fruits and vegetables that are lower in potassium. Have very small portions of foods that are higher in potassium, like one slice of tomato on a sandwich, a few slices of banana on cereal, or half of an orange.

For CKD patients it is recommended to limit your potassium intake to 1600mg per day, if your potassium is high.

POTASSIUM FINDER

667 mg

LOW POTASSIUM

HIGHER POTASSIUM

HIGHEST POTASSIUM

Beverages

in milligrams



To 150 mg.

Apple juice, 1/2 cup, 148
Coffee, 6 oz., brewed, 124
Cranberry juice, 1/2 cup, 31
Ginger ale, 12 ounces, 4
Tea, 6 ounces, brewed, 27

From 151 to 200 mg.

Grape juice, cnd. or bottle, 1/2 cup, 167
Grapefruit juice, cnd., unsw., 1/2 cup, 189
Pineapple juice, cnd., unsw., 1/2 cup, 168

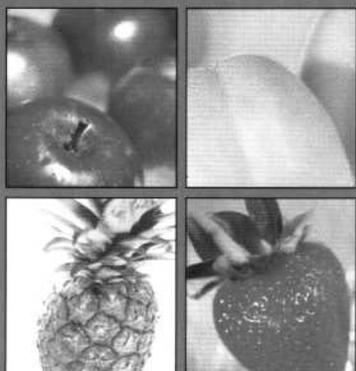
201 or more mg.

Milk, whole, 1 cup, 370; skim, 412 †
Milk, 1% lowfat, 1 cup, 381-397 †
Orange juice, fresh, 1/2 cup, 248
Soy milk, 1 cup, 338

TIP: Instant powdered drinks and carbonated sodas usually contain potassium or sodium preservatives. Consult your physician or dietitian before consuming.

Fruit

portions = 1/2 cup raw, unless otherwise stated



To 120 mg.

Apples, peeled, sliced, 62
Applesauce, cnd., sweetened, 78; unsw. 92
Apricot, 1 medium, 105
Blueberries, raw, 65
Cherries, sour, red, cnd., water pack, 120
Cranberries, raw, 39
Cranberry sauce, cnd., sweetened, 36
Fig, fresh, 1 medium, 116
Fruit cocktail, cnd., heavy syrup, 112; juice pack, 118
Grapes, Thompson seedless, ten, 93
Grapes, Tokay, Emperor seeded, ten, 105
Lemon, 1 medium, 80
Lime, 1 medium, 68
Peaches, cnd., heavy syrup, 118
Pears, ckd., heavy syrup, 83; juice pack, 119
Pineapple, raw, diced, 88
Plums, cnd., heavy syrup, 118
Plums, raw, 1 medium, 114
Raspberries, raw, 94
Rhubarb, ckd., with sugar, 115
Watermelon, diced, 93

From 121 to 250 mg.

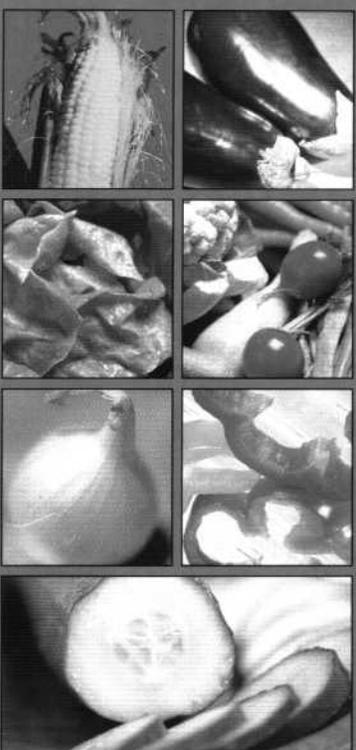
Apricots, cnd., heavy syrup, 181; juice pack, 205
Blackberries, raw, 141
Cherries, sweet, ten, 152
Elderberries, raw, 203
Grapefruit, 1/2 medium, 167
Grapefruit, cnd., with syrup, 164
Orange, 1 medium, 237
Peach, 1 medium, 171
Peaches, cnd., juice pack, 159
Pear, Asian, 1 medium, 148
Pear, 1 medium, Bosc, 176; Bartlett, 208; D'Anjou, 250
Pineapple, cnd. pieces, heavy syrup, 133
Pineapple, cnd. pieces, juice pack, 153
Plums, cnd., juice pack, 194
Pricklypear, 1 medium, 226
Raspberries, frozen, sweetened, 143
Strawberries, raw, 124
Strawberries, frozen, sweetened, sliced, 125
Tangerine, 1 medium, 132

251 or more mg.

Apricots, dried, uncooked, 896
Apricots, dried, ckd. unsw. + liquid, 611
Avocado, 1/2 medium, California, 549; Florida, 742
Banana, medium, 451
Cantaloupe, 1/4 medium, 413
Dates, chopped, 581
Figs, five dried, 666
Honeydew melon, 1/4 medium, 875
Kiwifruit, 1 medium, 252
Mango, 1 medium, 323
Nectarine, 1 medium, 288
Papaya, 1/2 medium, 390
Peaches, dried, ckd., unsw. + liquid, 413
Peaches, dried, uncooked, 797
Plantain, boiled, sliced, 358
Pomegranate, 1 medium, 399
Prunes, ckd., unsw. + liquid, 354
Prunes, 5 large, dried, uncooked, 365
Raisins, seedless, 545
Sapodilla, 1 medium, 328

Vegetables & Starches

portions = 1/2 cup unless otherwise stated



To 125 mg.

Alfalfa seeds, sprouted, raw, 13
Arugula, raw, 37
Bagel, plain, 50
Bamboo shoots, cnd., 53
Beans, green, ckd. from frozen, 76
Bean sprouts, mung, raw, 78
Bean sprouts, mung, ckd., 63
Bread, one slice, white, 28
Cabbage, raw, red, 72; common, 86 *
Carrots, ckd. from frozen, 116
Cauliflower, ckd. from frozen, 125 *
Collards, leaves, ckd. from raw, 84 *
Corn, ckd. from frozen, 114
Cucumbers, sliced, 84
Dandelion greens, ckd., 121 *
Eggplant, steamed, 119
Endive, raw, 79 *
Jicama, raw, 98
Leeks, ckd. from raw, 46; raw, 94
Lettuce, iceberg, 1 cup, 87 *
Mustard greens, ckd. from frozen, 104 *
Oatmeal, regular, 3/4 cup, 99 †
Onions, raw, diced, 124
Pasta, plain, "al dente," 1 cup, 103
Peppers, sweet, raw, 89; ckd., 113
Popcorn, air popped, 1 cup, 20
Psyllium husk fiber, 1 T., 3
Radicchio, raw, shredded, 60
Rice, ckd., white, 29; brown, 69
Turnips, white, cubes, ckd. from raw, 106
Water chestnuts, cnd., 83

From 126 to 250 mg.

Asparagus, ckd. from frozen, 196
Beans, green, ckd. from raw, 185
Bread, pumpernickel, 1 slice, 141 †
Broccoli, ckd. from frozen, 167
Broccoli, ckd. from raw, 127 *
Brussels sprouts, ckd. from raw, 246
Cabbage, common, ckd., 154
Carrots, ckd. from raw, 177
Carrots, raw, grated, 178
Cauliflower, ckd. from raw, 202
Cauliflower, raw florets, 178 *
Celeriac, ckd., 134; raw, 234
Celery, raw, diced, 171
Chickpeas, ckd., drained, 239
Collards, ckd. from frozen, 214
Corn, ckd. from raw, 204
Fennel bulb, raw, sliced, 180
Kale, ckd. from frozen, 209
Kale, ckd. from raw, 148 *
Lettuce, romaine, 1 cup, 148
Mushrooms, raw, 130
Mustard Greens, ckd. from raw, 141
Okra, sliced, ckd. from frozen, 215
Onions, ckd., 160
Parsley, raw, 166
Peas, edible pod, ckd., 192
Peas, green, ckd. from frozen, 134
Peppers, hot chili, 1 raw, 153
Radishes, raw, 144
Scallions, raw, 138
Squash, summer, ckd., all types, 173
Spinach, raw, chopped, 154 *
Tomatillos, raw, chopped, 177
Tortillas, corn, flour, 172 †
Turnip greens, ckd. from frozen, 184
Turnip greens, ckd. from raw, 146 *
Turnips, white, cubes, ckd. from frozen, 142

251 or more mg.

Artichoke, 1 medium, 425
Asparagus, ckd. from raw, 279
Beans, black, ckd., drained, 306 †
Beans, lima, thick, ckd. from frozen, 347 †
Beans, lima, thin, ckd. from frozen, 370 †
Beans, kidney, ckd., 355 †
Beans, pinto, ckd., drained, 398 †
Beet greens, ckd., 654 *
Beets, ckd., diced or sliced, 265
Black-eyed peas, ckd. from frozen, 319 †
Black-eyed peas, ckd. from raw, 347 †
Cabbage, pak choi, ckd., 316
Kohlrabi, ckd., 281
Lettuce, Boston, one 511 head, 419
Lentils, ckd., 366 †
Mushrooms, ckd., 278
Okra, sliced, ckd. from raw, 257
Parsnips, ckd., 287
Peanuts, oil roasted, unsalted, 491 †
Peas, split, ckd., 355 †
Potato, baked, 1 large, no skin, 610
Potato, baked, 1 large with skin, 844
Potatoes, boiled, no skin, 256
Pumpkin, cnd., 253
Pumpkin, ckd. from raw, 282
Rutabagas, cubes, cooked, 277
Soybeans, ckd., 486 †
Spinach, ckd. from frozen, 283
Spinach, ckd. from raw, 420 *
Squash, winter, ckd., all types, 448
Sweet potato, 1 medium, baked, 397
Sweet potatoes, peeled, boiled, 301
Swiss chard, ckd. from raw, 483 *
Tomato, raw, 1 medium, green, 251
Tomato, raw, 1 medium, red, 273

TIP: To reduce potassium content of vegetables, boil in large amount of water, rinse and drain. All salt substitutes and many preservatives contain potassium, phosphates, and sodium. Many canned vegetables were omitted from this guide because of their high sodium content.

† Foods high in phosphorus. * Foods high in Vitamin K, a concern for those on anti-coagulant therapy.