Autumn Beet and Vegetable Salad with Blue Cheese and Hickory Nuts

From Asparagus to Zucchini

Salad ingredients:

2 C. cooked, diced yellow or red beets

1 ½ C. blanched, diced carrots

1 ½ C. cooked, diced waxy-type potatoes

1 C. diced roasted red peppers

1 ½ C. diced Jonathan apples

4-6 oz. blue cheese, crumbled

2/3 C. hickory nuts, toasted 6-8 minutes at 350

Dressing ingredients:

1/3 C. minced shallots

5 T. cider vinegar

3-4 T. chopped fresh basil or parsley

1 ½ T. Dijon mustard

½ C. olive oil

Salt and pepper to taste

To make dressing: Combine first four ingredients. Whisk in olive oil in a thin stream. Season with salt and pepper. To assemble the salad, toss each type of vegetable and the apples, one type at a time, with enough dressing to barely coat them. Arrange in separate piles in a wide shallow bowl. Serve at room temperature. Just before serving, sprinkle salad with blue cheese and hickory nuts, add more salt and pepper to taste and toss gently.