

ORANGE SCENTED CHOCOLATE CHIP BAGELS

INGREDIENTS

sponge -

- 1 t yeast
- big pinch of sugar
- 4 cups unbleached bread flour
- 2 1/2 cups water, room temperature

dough -

- 1/2 t yeast
- 3 3/4 cups unbleached bread flour
- 2 3/4 t salt
- zest from 1 orange
- 1 T maple syrup
- 1 1/2-2 cups chocolate chips

for finishing -

- 1 T baking soda
- cornmeal (for dusting the baking sheets)
- cream cheese, jam, or butter to serve

DIRECTIONS:

1. Day one: make the sponge. Whisk yeast and a big pinch of sugar into water, in the bowl of your stand mixer. Set aside until foamy, about 5 minutes. Add flour, whisking or stirring until it forms a smooth sticky batter. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and leave at room temperature for approximately 2 hours, or until the mixture becomes foamy and bubbly and has swollen to near double in size.
2. Make the dough. In the same bowl, add the additional yeast to the sponge and stir. Then add the salt, orange zest, and maple syrup. Slowly add 3 cups of flour and chocolate chips to the mixture. Stir or mix on a low speed with a dough hook until the ingredients form a ball, slowly working in the remaining 3/4 as needed to stiffen the dough.
3. Knead by hand for 10 minutes or 6 minutes by machine. The dough should be firm, stiffer than your average bread dough, but still pliable and smooth.
4. Immediately divide the dough into twelve 4.5 ounce pieces for standard bagels or twenty two 3 oz pieces (like I made here). Form the pieces into rolls. Cover with a damp towel for 20 minutes. Meanwhile, line two baking sheets with parchment paper and mist lightly with cooking spray.
5. Shape the bagels. Poke a hole in the center of a ball of dough and gently rotate your thumb around the inside of the hole to widen it approximately 2 inches in diameter or 1 inch for the smaller guys. Place each of the shaped pieces 1-2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheets. Mist the bagels very lightly with cooking spray and cover lightly with plastic wrap. Let the pans sit at room temperature for about 20 minutes. Refrigerate overnight, or for a few hours.
6. Day two: (the following day or when you are ready to make the bagels), preheat the oven to 450°F. Bring a large pot of water to a boil and add baking soda.
7. Remove bagels from the refrigerator and gently drop them into the water, boiling only as many as comfortably fit. (They should float.) After 2 minutes flip them over and boil another 2 minutes. (If you like your bagels a little less chewy boil and boil only 1 minute on each side.) While the bagels are boiling, sprinkle the same parchment-lined sheet pans with cornmeal. Sprinkle the bagels with coconut as they come out of the water.
8. When all the bagels have been boiled and topped, bake for 5 minutes then rotate the pan and then bake 5-7 minutes or until golden brown.