



## **Carrotty Soft Pretzel Bites + Crazy Carrot Cheese Dip + Lucky Lemon Soda**

By Erin Fletter

**Prep Time 40 / Cook Time 15 / Serves 4 - 6**

### **Shopping List**

FRESH

2 small carrots

3 lemons

DAIRY AND EGGS

4 oz sharp cheddar cheese **\*\*(see allergy subs below)\*\***

2 T Greek plain yogurt **\*\*(see allergy subs below)\*\***

1 egg **\*\*(see allergy subs below)\*\***

PANTRY

1 package (1 T) active dry yeast

1 tsp salt

3 to 5 T honey (or 2 to 3 stevia packets for Soda)

4 C all-purpose flour + more for sticky dough **\*\*(see allergy subs below)\*\***

1 1/2 tsp kosher salt

3 big pinches black pepper

1 large bottle sparkling water

HAVE ON HAND

1 3/4 C lukewarm water

- ice
- ALTERNATE Dairy-Free Honey Bee Mustard Dipping Sauce:
- 1/2 C mayonnaise **\*\***(see allergy subs below)**\*\***
- 3 T prepared yellow mustard
- 2 T honey

## Fun-Da-Mentals Kitchen Skills

**egg wash:** to brush dough before baking with beaten eggs mixed with milk or water to give the crust additional crispness and sheen.

**grate:** to reduce food, like a carrot, to very small shreds or pieces of the same size by rubbing it on a tool with an outside surface that has holes with cutting edges (a grater).

**knead:** to work dough by pushing, pulling, and folding it by hand or with a stand mixer.

**grate:** to reduce food, like a carrot, to very small shreds or pieces of the same size by rubbing it on a tool with an outside surface that has holes with cutting edges (a grater).

**mash:** to reduce food, like potatoes or bananas, to a soft, pulpy state by beating or pressure.

**squeeze:** to firmly press or twist a food with fingers, hands, or a device to remove its liquid, like shredded potatoes, frozen and thawed spinach, or tofu.

**stir:** to mix together two or more ingredients with a spoon or spatula, usually in a circle pattern, or figure eight, or in whatever direction you like!

**dip:** to briefly put a solid food, such as chips, fries, battered fried fish, hot sandwich (French dip), or veggie slices, into a liquid, like beef broth or a thicker sauce, like ketchup, dressing, or a dip to impart moisture and extra flavor to the solid food.

**measure:** to calculate the specific amount of an ingredient required using a measuring tool (like measuring cups or spoons).

**whisk:** to beat or stir ingredients vigorously with a fork or whisk to mix, blend, or incorporate air.

## Equipment

- Cutting board + kid-safe knife
- Citrus juicer (optional)
- Pitcher
- Measuring spoons

- Small bowl
- Liquid measuring cup
- Whisk
- Grater
- Dry measuring cups
- Medium non-stick skillet
- Potato masher
- Oven
- Baking sheet
- Parchment paper
- Large mixing bowl
- Wooden spoon
- Pastry brush

## **Ingredients**

### **Carrot Soft Pretzel Bites**

- 1 package (1 T) active dry yeast
- 1 1/2 C lukewarm water
- 1 tsp salt
- 3 tsp honey/sugar
- 4 C all-purpose flour + more for sticky dough **\*\* (for GLUTEN ALLERGY sub gluten-free/nut-free all-purpose flour)\*\***
- 1 small carrot
- 1 egg, beaten **\*\* (Omit for EGG ALLERGY)\*\***
- kosher salt for sprinkling on top

### **Crazy Carrot Cheese Dip**

- 1 small carrot
- 4 oz sharp cheddar cheese **\*\* (for DAIRY ALLERGY sub dairy-free/nut-free cheese, like Daiya brand, or follow dairy-free dip recipe)\*\***

- 2 tsp lemon juice, divided
- 1 tsp water
- 1/2 tsp honey
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt, divided
- 3 big pinches black pepper
- 2 T Greek plain yogurt **\*\***(for DAIRY ALLERGY sub dairy-free/nut-free plain yogurt, or follow dairy-free dip recipe)**\*\***

### Lucky Lemon Soda

- 2 lemons
- 2 to 4 T honey/sugar/powdered sugar/agave nectar (or 2 to 3 stevia packets), to taste
- 1 large bottle sparkling water
- ice

### Dairy-Free Honey Bee Mustard Dipping Sauce

- 1/2 C mayonnaise **\*\***(for EGG ALLERGY sub vegan mayonnaise, like Vegenaise brand)**\*\***
- 3 T prepared yellow mustard
- 2 T honey
- 1/2 T lemon juice

## Food Allergen Substitutions

### Carrotty Soft Pretzel Bites

**Gluten/Wheat:** Substitute gluten-free/nut-free all-purpose flour.

**Egg:** Omit egg wash. If desired, lightly brush a little oil or melted butter on the pretzel dough before baking.

### Crazy Carrot Cheese Dip

**Dairy:** Substitute dairy-free/nut-free cheese, like Daiya brand, or follow Dairy-Free Honey Bee Mustard Dipping Sauce recipe. Substitute dairy-free/nut-free plain yogurt, or follow Dairy-Free Honey Bee Mustard Dipping Sauce recipe.

## Lucky Lemon Soda

## Dairy-Free Honey Bee Mustard Dipping Sauce

**Egg:** Substitute vegan mayonnaise, like Vegenaïse brand.

## Instructions

### Carrot Soft Pretzel Bites

#### dissolve + combine

Dissolve **1 package of active dry yeast** in **1 1/2 cups of lukewarm water** in a large mixing bowl for 3 minutes. Then have kids add in **3 teaspoons of honey**, **1 teaspoon salt**, and **4 cups of flour**.

#### mix + rise

Mix the dough together and set to the side to rise for a bit—the longer it sits, the better!

#### grate + separate

Have kids grate **1 carrot**. (If making Crazy Carrot Cheese Dip (see recipe), grate a second carrot and make the dip while waiting for the dough to rise.)

#### preheat + knead

Preheat your oven to 425 F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. When the dough is ready, add half of the grated carrot to the dough and take turns with your kids kneading the dough by hand for 5 to 10 minutes. Add flour as needed to reduce stickiness. Divide the dough into 12 sections and have your kids roll it out into long skinny snakes, ropes, or worms. As your children work with the dough, it will become stickier.

#### crack + brush

Have kids crack **1 egg** and beat it in a small bowl. Once they've rolled out the dough into long shapes, invite your kids to brush the dough with the beaten egg using a pastry brush to make the pretzels shiny when they bake!

#### sprinkle

Finally, have kids sprinkle the top of the egg-washed dough with just a little **kosher salt**.

#### shape + bake + dip

Have kids form their snakes, ropes, or worms into a fun shape on the lined baking sheet. The shape doesn't matter—the pretzels will taste delicious no matter how they look! Next, slide the tray into the oven and

bake for 8 to 10 minutes until golden brown. Then dip the pretzels into the Carrot Cheese Dip, drink with Lucky Lemon Soda (see recipe), and enjoy!

## Crazy Carrot Cheese Dip

grate + combine + cook

Have kids grate **4 ounces of cheddar cheese** (about 1 cup grated) and **1 carrot**. In a medium nonstick skillet on your stovetop, combine the grated carrot, **1 teaspoon lemon juice**, **1 teaspoon water**, **1 drizzle of honey**, and **1 big pinch of salt**. Cook the carrots over medium heat until soft, about 3 to 5 minutes, and then let the carrots sit to cool a bit.

measure + mash

Have kids measure **1 teaspoon lemon juice**, **1/4 teaspoon kosher salt**, **3 big pinches of black pepper**, **2 tablespoons of Greek yogurt**, and **1/4 teaspoon honey** and combine in a bowl with the cooked and cooled carrots and the grated cheese. Have kids toss and mash until the cheese and carrots come together into a dip and serve with Carroty Soft Pretzel Bites (see recipe). Delicious!

## Lucky Lemon Soda

squeeze + stir

Have kids squeeze the juice of **2 lemons** into a pitcher and remove any seeds. Add **2 to 4 tablespoons of honey** and mix well. Top with **1 large bottle of sparkling water** and **ice** and stir. Taste and add more sweetener if needed!

## Dairy-Free Honey Bee Mustard Dipping Sauce

measure + whisk + dip

Have kids measure **1/2 cup mayonnaise**, **3 tablespoons mustard**, **2 tablespoons honey**, and **1/2 tablespoon lemon juice** into a small bowl. Whisk everything together. Dip your warm pretzels in and enjoy!

## Featured Ingredient: Carrots!

Hi! I'm Carrot!

"I'm at the root of this recipe! Get it? Root? Carrots are root vegetables! We grow up in dark and cozy soil. Our leaves get plenty of sunshine, though. If you grow us, it's so satisfying to pull us out of our underground home and know you'll be tasting our crunchy sweetness very soon. But you may want to wash us first! You can eat carrots raw or cook them first. Either way, you'll enjoy our flavor, texture, and color in salads, savory dishes, and desserts, like carrot cake!"

History

Before carrots were orange, they were purple, red, white, and yellow. In the 16th century (after the Middle Ages), Dutch carrot growers invented the orange carrot in honor of the House of Orange, the Dutch Royal Family (for Kings and Queens). They did this by crossbreeding pale yellow carrots with red carrots. Carrots soon caught on in England as both a food and a fashion accessory. For example, it's said that ladies in the 1600s would decorate their hats with carrot tops instead of feathers!

The carrots we eat today were domesticated from a wild carrot native to Europe and southwestern Asia. No one knows exactly how old carrots are, but history traces them back about 5,000 years. They were mistaken for parsnips before the carrot was identified as a distinct vegetable. Carrots and parsnips are related but from different families. Parsnips are white and look a lot like carrots. They're also root vegetables!

When carrots were first grown many hundreds of years ago, farmers prized them for their aromatic leaves and seeds—not just the roots!

According to some sources, carrots are the second most popular vegetable in the world, behind just one other. Can you guess what's number one? Potatoes!

The longest carrot ever recorded was over 20 feet long! (The measurement included the taproot's long, skinny end.) The heaviest carrot recorded weighed over 22 pounds!

You may think rabbits love carrots naturally, and this is largely because of the popularity of the wise-cracking and charming cartoon rabbit character named Bugs Bunny. We see Bugs Bunny munching on a carrot in most scenes. In reality, if a rabbit ate a whole carrot, it would be like you or me eating 20 carrots in one sitting! Way too much! Here's another fun fact: The voice of Bugs Bunny, Mel Blanc, reportedly did not like carrots at all.

## Anatomy & Etymology

Carrots belong to the Umbelliferae family, named for their resemblance to an umbrella when their leafy green stems are attached. This family includes celery, parsnip, fennel, dill, and coriander.

Carrots are root vegetables, meaning they grow underneath the ground. Their feathery leaves grow above the ground. Can you think of other root vegetables? A few of them are beets, onions, turnips, potatoes, radishes, parsnips, fennel, garlic, and jicama.

You can eat every part of the carrot. Typically we eat the root part of the plant, but the stems and leaves are edible, too! A carrot's root can grow anywhere from 2 to 20 inches long before it's picked!

Carrots like to grow in cooler climates, not tropical, hot places. For this reason, they are usually grown in the autumn, winter, and spring months.

Baby carrots sold in grocery stores started as long carrots that were sliced and tumbled into smaller pieces to make them "baby-sized."

Carrot seeds are tiny. Find a teaspoon. How many carrot seeds do you think will fit inside? About 2,000!

A carrot plant will live for two years, meaning new crops need to be planted from seed every two years.

There are two main classes of carrots: Western and Eastern. The Western class includes four types, classified by their root shape: Chantenay, Danvers, Imperator, and Nantes. Several cultivars (varieties created by selective breeding) exist under each type. Many varieties have different colors than the typical orange. How many colors have you seen? The next time you're in the grocery store, look for these diverse

carrots.

The English word "carrot" comes from the Greek word "karoton."

## How to Pick, Buy, & Eat

One large carrot or a handful of baby carrots counts as one vegetable serving. Aim for three servings of veggies a day for kids and five servings for adults.

Carrots can be eaten raw, roasted, juiced, boiled, mashed, or steamed. However, they are most nutrient-dense when cooked and eaten with fat like butter or oil.

When you eat a carrot, how does it taste? Modern carrots have been bred to be sweet, which is why we often use them in baked goods like carrot cake! On the other hand, ancient carrots were bitter, not sweet. Look for firm, brightly colored carrots with smooth, firm skin. Carrots that are limp or black near the top are not fresh.

Thicker carrots may be older and tougher to eat, whereas thinner carrots are typically younger, fresher, and sweeter.

Store carrots in the crisper drawer of your refrigerator, where they will keep for a few weeks!

One of the tastiest, easiest ways to cook carrots is to toss them with melted butter, salt, honey, and garlic, then roast them at 425 F for 20 minutes.

You can grate raw carrots and add them to salads or chop them to add to soups or stews. If you boil or steam carrots, you then puree them to add to breads, cookies, cakes, or even tomato sauce to sweeten it. Carrots add natural sweetness to whatever recipe they're in (and a pretty orange color, too!).

## Nutrition

Eyes! The color of a fruit or vegetable tells us what nutrient it contains (nature is amazing!). Orange vegetables and fruits have a particular nutrient called beta carotene. Beta carotene was named for the carrot itself! This nutrient converts to vitamin A inside the body, which is good for our eyes! Studies have shown that only three percent of beta carotene is released from the raw vegetable when we digest it. But this percentage can be improved when we juice or puree raw carrots or cook them with fat like butter or oil. Carrots have the most beta carotene of any vegetable!

Teeth! The crunchiness of carrots helps clean the plaque off your teeth and gums, just like your toothbrush! Of course, this doesn't mean eating a carrot at the end of the day can substitute for brushing your teeth! Carrots also have minerals that protect the teeth.

Purple carrots include anthocyanin, an antioxidant, just like purple eggplants, blueberries, and other colorful fruits.

As with all vegetables, eating carrots helps protect us from getting sick!