Mexican Street Corn Pasta Salad

Ingredients

Salad

- 2 cups miniature farfelle pasta uncooked
- 3 cups either 2 (15-ounce) cans, or 3-4 corns on the cob)
- ∘ 1 large avocado
- 3 green onions
- ½ bunch cilantro
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped jalapeno
- 6-8 strips hardwood smoked bacon
- ∘ ½ cup Cotija cheese (or queso fresco or feta add cheese to preference (we like 1/2 cup)
- Optional: ½ canned cup black beans

Dressing

- ½ cup full fat regular mayo no substitutes
- 3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice and 1/4 teaspoon lime zest
- ∘ ¼ teaspoon ground cumin
- ∘ ¼ teaspoon paprika
- ∘ ½ teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon Sriracha or hot sauce
- Pinch of salt and ground black pepper

Directions

- 1. Cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse under cold water. Make sure the pasta is completely dry.
- 2. Corn: if using corn on the cob:
 - 1. Heat the grill to medium.
 - 2. Pull back the husks to the base and take off all the silk from each ear of corn.
 - 3. Fold back the husks into place. Place the ears of corn in a large bowl of water with 1 tablespoon of salt for 10 minutes and then remove from water and shake to dry.
 - 4. Place the corn on the grill, cover the grill, and cook for 15-20 minutes turning the corn every 5 minutes.
 - 5. You'll know the corn is done when the kernels are tender and easily pierced with a fork.
- 3. Alternative #1: use pre-roasted canned corn:
 - 1. Drain and allow to dry.
- 4. Alternative #2: use regular canned corn:
 - 1. heat a large cast iron skillet on medium high heat for 3-4 minutes or until very hot.
 - 2. Drain corn and place in a single layer and cook for about 5 minutes stirring once in between or until browned.
 - 1. Avoid stirring too often as this will keep the corn from getting a good roast.
- 5. Meanwhile prep the veggies: chop the avocado into small pieces, chop the green onions, coarsely

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chop the cilantro, very finely chop the jalapeno, and cook then crumble the bacon. Crumble the cheese. Add black beans if desired.

- 6. In a large bowl combine the completely dry and cooled pasta, cooled corn, avocado, onions, cilantro, jalapeno, bacon, and cheese.
 - 1. If you don't plan on eating this in one sitting and immediately after making, don't add the bacon, cheese, or avocado. Add those in separately right before enjoying.
- 7. Toss together.
- 8. In a small bowl combine all of the dressing ingredients and whisk together until completely combined.
- 9. Toss with the salad and enjoy!

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