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## KALE WITH GARLIC AND BACON

Serves 4 / Prep time: 10 minutes / Cook time: 20 minutes

This is a beautiful, savory dish that's easy to make, nutritious with the vitamin-rich kale, and delicious with the bacon and garlic.

- 2½ pounds kale (about 4 bunches), tough stems and center ribs cut off and discarded
- 4 bacon slices (1/2 pound), cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 cups water

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

- i. Stack several kale leaves on top of one another and roll up lengthwise into a cigar shape; cut them crosswise into ¼-inchwide strips with a sharp knife. (This method is called chiffonade, and it efficiently cuts greens into long, even strips.) Repeat this with the remaining kale leaves.
- Cook the bacon in a wide 6- to 8-quart heavy pot over moderate heat, stirring occasionally until crisp. Transfer the bacon with a slotted spoon onto paper towels to drain.

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- Pour off and discard all but 3 tablespoons of the bacon fat from the pot. Then cook the garlic in the remaining fat over moderately low heat, stirring until it turns pale golden (about 30 seconds).
- Add the kale (don't worry if it completely fills the pot—it will cook down quickly) and sauté, turning it with tongs until it is just wilted and bright green, I to 2 minutes.
- 5. Add the water and simmer the kale, partially covered, until just tender, 6 to 10 minutes. Drain off any excess water, season the kale to taste with salt and pepper, and toss with the bacon. Serve immediately.

| <b>Cooking Tip:</b> Large kale leaves are easier to cut in the chiffonade |
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| manner described in this recipe. If all you can find are small leaves,    |
| just coarsely chop them.  |