

AT A GLANCE:

Makes / Serves

Yield varies by final reduction

Prep Time

About 45 minutes

Cook Time

Several hours

Freeze

Yes

Method / Setting

Roaster + stovetop

INGREDIENTS:

- 18 lbs fresh tomatoes
- 1 tomatillo
- 8 cups finely chopped mixed peppers (sweet bell, poblano, jalapeño, and long hot peppers)
- 3 lbs ground beef
- 1 cup frozen chopped onions
- 2 cups chopped celery
- 1 tablespoon frozen grated garlic
- 3/4 cup red wine
- 1/4 cup dark molasses
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon non-iodized salt



DIRECTIONS:

1. Roast the tomatoes.

Cook tomatoes and tomatillo low and slow in the roaster until reduced by half. Remove most skins; blend with an immersion blender.

2. Brown and season the beef.

Brown ground beef in a skillet. Season with garlic powder, chili powder, black pepper, and non-iodized salt.

3. Build the flavor base.

Sauté onion and celery until browned; add frozen grated garlic. Deglaze with red wine, then return the seasoned beef.

4. Combine the chili.

Add the meat mixture to the roasted tomatoes. Stir in the chopped peppers and dark molasses.

5. Simmer and serve.

Continue simmering gently until the peppers are tender and the flavors have blended. Serve hot and enjoy, or cool promptly and follow the freezing instructions below.

FREEZING:

Cool promptly in shallow portions. Transfer to airtight freezer-safe containers or bags, leaving headspace for expansion. Label and freeze. Thaw in the refrigerator and reheat thoroughly.

SERVING OPTION:

For chili with beans, add 1 can of drained black beans or an equivalent amount of cooked beans to the finished chili. Heat through and serve. Beans were not included in the base chili.

NOTE:

Freezing is recommended for this recipe. We cannot recommend a canning direction, as this is not an approved recipe for canning.

A Farmers Market Bargain, a Family to Feed, and an Unexpected Blessing

SCRIPTURE

“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Matthew 25:40 (KJV)

Sometimes the Lord’s provision arrives in ordinary ways. At the farmers market, I stumbled onto a wonderful sale and came home with eighteen pounds of tomatoes and eight peppers! I hadn’t expected such a bargain, but it was a welcome blessing—fresh produce that could stretch our grocery dollars and help feed our family.

I wasn’t planning to make chili. I was thinking about my elderly mother-in-law, who lives with us and depends on our care. Because high-fat, salty, and dairy-rich foods are difficult for her to digest, she needs nourishing, soft, moist meals with enough calories. Preparing food ahead of time means less daily work and more time and energy to care for her.

So I brought home that harvest with a purpose: to use what was available wisely today and ease tomorrow’s responsibilities.

As the tomatoes roasted and the peppers and seasonings came together, a delicious chili began to take shape. When Rick tasted it, he exclaimed, “Why haven’t we made this before? I can really get into chili!” I had to smile.

What began as an effort to provide for one member of our household brought unexpected pleasure to another. Caring for others isn’t always accomplished through grand gestures. Sometimes it’s recognizing a bargain, washing vegetables, preparing tomorrow’s meals, and showing up again in love. Once we rocked babies and packed lunches; now we may care for those who once cared for us.

The responsibilities change, but the calling to love does not. Jesus reminds us that the care we extend to others matters to Him. Those quiet acts of service, even when nobody else notices, can become expressions of love for Him. Eighteen pounds of tomatoes, eight peppers, and one very happy husband: an ordinary afternoon became a harvest of provision.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your daily provision and the opportunity to care for those we love. Please give me wisdom to use the resources You place in my hands, and I will put that wisdom into practice. Please renew my strength when caregiving becomes tiring, and I will continue to serve with love. Please help me recognize joy in ordinary moments, and I will give thanks and share Your love around our table. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

A MOMENT TO REFLECT

1. Where have I seen God’s provision in an unexpected opportunity?
2. What can I prepare today to make caring for someone easier tomorrow?
3. How can an ordinary act of service become an expression of love?