



# Coconut

## Health Benefits of Coconut

Sweet and chewy unsweetened coconut meat is a whole food source of fat, fiber and antioxidants to be enjoyed raw or dried.

### **2 Tbsp shredded unsweetened coconut provides:**

- 35 Calories, .5 gm protein, 1 gm fiber, 3 gm fat, no cholesterol

### **Potential benefits of consuming coconut meat:**

- Although high in sat fat, may help lower LDL and raise HDL chol
- 89-92% of coconut fat is sat fat, mostly medium-chain fatty acids (MCTs) which are converted more easily into energy than animal sources of sat fat
- High in manganese, essential for bone health, small amounts of potassium for healthy blood pressure, phosphorous for DNA and copper for immunity, energy production and iron metabolism
- Low in sugar, it contains multiple antioxidants that fight free radicals and oxidative stress associated with aging and disease
- Use shredded coconut in cereal, stirred into dips or spreads, atop fruit or vegetable salads, making cookies or mixed in smoothies
- Coconuts also contribute coconut water, milk and oil

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