Maple Mashed Sweet Potatoes

Ingredients:

6 lb sweet potatoes

1 stick (1/2 cup) unsalted butter, melted

1/2 cup heavy cream, warmed

2 tablespoons pure maple syrup

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Prick each potato twice with a fork and bake in a foil-lined shallow baking pan in lower third of oven until very tender, about 1 hour.

Remove and cool slightly.

Halve potatoes lengthwise and scoop out warm flesh into a large bowl.

Mash potatoes with a potato masher or, for a smoother purée,

force through a potato ricer.

Stir in butter, cream, syrup, salt, and pepper.