Vegan option, gluten-free option

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup bulgur wheat
 - O OR couscous
 - OR Quinoa for gluten-free option
- 1 1/2 cups boiling, salted water (1 cup if using couscous) OR vegetable stock
- Zest of two lemons
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (2 lemons)
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 3 1/2 tsps kosher salt
- 1 cup minced scallions, white and green parts (1 bunch)
- 1 cup chopped fresh mint leaves
- 1 cup chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 1 persian or hothouse cucumber, unpeeled, seeded and small diced
- 2 cups cherry tomatoes, small diced
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- Optional:
 - O 1/2 cup feta cheese (vegan OK), cut into small cubes
 - O pomegranate seeds
 - O carrot, minced

INSTRUCTIONS

- Cook bulgur (or couscous or quinoa)
 according to package directions. Typically 1
 to 1 for couscous, 1 to 1 ½ for bulgur and
 quinoa.
- 2. Remove from heat, pour it on a platter in order to let it cool faster.
- 3. While the bulgur/couscous/quinoa is cooling down, prepare vegetables and herbs.
- In a large bowl, combine vegetables, herbs, and grains once they are cooled (you don't want to cook/steam the delicate vegetables.)
- 5. Add the lemon juice and zest, and the olive oil. Adjust seasoning if needed.
- 6. Pour it back on platter, top with cheese, or other toppings if desired.
- 7. If you have the time, cover and let the flavors marry. If serving the next day, refrigerate. Best served at room temperature.

