### Let's Cook and Eat the Tastes of the Season!

## — Simmered New Potatoes (Shin-jaga no Nikkorogashi) —

Spring is the season of budding crops. Edible wild plants and a wide variety of other vegetables that we can only encounter in spring appear in grocery stores and supermarkets. Vegetables that are available year-round also seem softer and fresher than usual during this season, such that some are given a special seasonal name, such as "spring" cabbage and "new" onions.

Shin-jaga (new potato) is one such name. It literally refers to the year's first harvest of potatoes, but is now more commonly used to refer to a type of small potato that has a very thin skin and high moisture content, and is newly harvested in spring.

Below, we introduce a recipe called *shin-jaga no nikkorogashi* (simmered new potatoes). *Nikkorogashi* typically refers to a dish of taro simmered in a salty-sweet sauce, but the recipe below uses seasonal *shin-jaga* potatoes instead of taro. *Shin-jaga* are an ideal ingredient for casually enjoying the taste of spring, because they are small and cook quickly, and their skin is thin and doesn't need to be peeled. You can use them to make a variety of dishes.

#### [Ingredients (four servings)]

Shin-jaga potatoes: 500g Japanese broth: 400ml

Sugar: 3 Tbsp Soy sauce: 3 Tbsp Oil: as needed

#### [Preparation]

- 1. Wash the *shin-jaga* well, remove any eyes, and wipe off excess water.
- 2. Heat some oil in a pan and stir-fry the potatoes.
- 3. Pour Japanese broth into the pan, let it come to a boil, then add sugar and soy sauce. Cover the pan and cook the potatoes over medium to low heat until soft.
- 4. Take the cover off and turn up the heat to high. Shake the pan occasionally to prevent burning, and cook until the sauce thickens somewhat.

# たべよう 作ろう! 旬の味

### 新じゃがの煮っ転がし

ず吹きの季節である春は、八百屋でもスーパーでも、山菜などこの季節にしか出会えない野菜がたくさん並びます。また1管を通してよくお曽に掛かる野菜も、この季節は普段より柔らかく端々しく、中には「春キャベッ」「新夕マネギ」など、春だけいつもとちょっと違う名で店先に並ぶものもあります。

「新じゃが」もそのような名前のひとつで、その年初めて収穫したじゃがいもという意味合いの名ですが、春に収穫した、 小粒で按が薄く水分の茤い品種のじゃがいもを一様にこう呼んでいるようです。

今回ご紹介する「新じゃがの煮っ転がし」の「煮っ転がし」は、元来サトイキを甘幸く煮た料理を言うことが多いのですが、この季節ならではの新じゃがを使って作ってみましょう。 小さく 皮が薄い新じゃがは、剥いたり切ったりする手間が少なく、火も通り易いので、手軽に春の味覚を楽しめる食材としてお勧めです。 色々な料理に使ってみてください。

### 「材料 (4人分)]

### [作り芳]

- 1. 新じゃがはよく洗って、芽があれば取る。水気をよく切る。
- 2. 鍋に油をひいて1をよく炒める。
- 3. 2にだし汁を入れ、沸騰したら砂糖と醤油を加え、蓋をして新じゃがが柔らかくなるまで中~弱火で煮る。
- 4. 蓋を取って火を強め、焦げないように鍋をゆすり、煮汁が歩なくなってとろみが出たらでき上がり。