GRANNY WEBB'S



APRICOT CHEESECAKE

Crumb case: 250g sweet biscuits

90g melted butter

Crush biscuits and place in bowl, pour over melted butter, mix well. Press on to base and sides of a chilled spring form tin. Chill until ready for use.

Filling:

3 rounded tsp gelatine 360g cream cheese ¼ cup hot water 1½ tbsp castor sugar Juice of 1 lemon 300ml cream 450g apricot halves 1 tbsp icing sugar

Dissolve gelatine and castor sugar in hot water. Puree apricots and syrup. Add dissolved gelatine. Blend fruit mixture with beaten cream cheese and juice of lemon. Whip cream adding icing sugar. Mix into the fruit and cheese mixture. Spoon into the chilled crumb case. Decorate.

APRICOT SAUCE

3kgs apricots 1½ kg sugar 6 cups vinegar 1 tbsp ground cloves 6 tsp salt 1 tbsp ginger

Boil together 1 hour, strain and bottle when cold. You haven't lived until you've had apricot sauce on BBQ sausages or meats, or poured over ice cream.

APRICOT & WALNUT CHUTNE?

2.5kg apricots 1.5kg onions 500g raisins 1kg brown sugar 1.2L white vinegar 2 tsp mustard seed 1 tsp chilli powder 2 tsp salt 1 tsp cinnamon 2 tsp tumeric 100g shelled, rough chopped walnuts 2 lemons & 2 oranges grated rind & juice

Put all in a pan except walnuts. Simmer until pulpy. Stir in walnuts. Bottle in usual way.

APRICOT JAM

3kg apricots 1 breakfast cup water 3kg sugar

Split and stone and cut up apricots. Put into pan with water. Cook slowly until fruit pulped. Add sugar, boil rapidly 15 to 20 minutes. Test, bottle and cover.

Tip from Granny Ainsley Webb: For those of you who live in warm climates here's a way to enjoy apricot jam year round. Instead of bottling, spoon into an ice cream container, pop on the lid and place in the freezer. Simply spoon out a quantity as and when you need it. It doesn't freeze, and it's good to go.

DIY OVEN-DRIED APRICOTS

Drying intensifies that apricot flavour making for a wonderful snack or chopped up and combined into a salad or sprinkled over breakfast cereal. Soaking plumps up dried apricots for an altogether different eating sensation.

Halve ripe apricots, remove stone & press inside out. Don't remove skin.
To retain colour when dried place in colander over boiling water for 5 mins. Plunge colander into iced water. Drain, remove fruit & gently pat dry.

3. Place apricots on oven or baking tray skin side down on baking paper and put into oven preheated to 60C.

 Dry for 12 hours using a wooden spoon to prop open the oven door to allow steam to escape.

5. When cooled, place dried apricots (should be pliable) into preserving jar and fill to top to displace as much air as possible. Store in cool, dry place.

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