

Cook's Question

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QUESTION — Mrs. Paul Mast, Morgantown, would like to know how to keep Red Beet Jelly from tasting sugary. She said that she made the jelly the same as other years, but this past year, it was sugary. She tried re-heating it in the microwave and although the jelly was smooth for a few days, it again got sugary. She writes: We love the jelly when it's smooth. Here is the recipe that she uses.

Red Beet Jelly

- 3 cups beet juice
- 4 cups sugar
- 1 package Sure-Jell
- 6 ounces black raspberry Jell-O

Bring juices to a rolling boil. Add the Jell-O and the pectin. Boil 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add the sugar. Stir well and pour into jars.

ANSWER — Barbara Nagy requested a recipe for Black Diamond Steaks. Thanks to Rita Bradley, Chambersburg, for sending a recipe.

Black Diamond Steaks

Marinade:

- 1 cup oil
- 1 cup red wine
- ½ teaspoon oregano
- ¼ teaspoon basil
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 4 - 6 venison steaks

Blend all marinade ingredients in blender or food processor.

Leave Grass Clippings On Lawn

HUNTINGDON (Huntingdon Co.) — Leaving grass clippings on the lawn will not harm your turf — in fact, it may be beneficial, says a Penn State turfgrass expert.

Recycling grass clippings not only is civic-minded, but it's also beneficial to the lawn and saves

the work involved in bagging. "If you leave the clippings on the lawn, you can reduce fertilizer needs by as much as 33 percent. Clippings break down easily, returning nitrogen and other nutrients to the soil.

Some people are concerned that returning clippings to the lawn

may result in thatch accumulation," but because the clippings decompose rapidly, they do not contribute to thatch."

For clippings to break down rapidly, the lawn must be mowed frequently enough so that large amounts of leaf residue don't remain on the surface of the turf. Weekly mowing often isn't frequent enough, especially during the peak period of leaf growth in spring.

When you're mowing, you shouldn't take off more than one-third of the leaf blade at one time. Otherwise, you may scalp the grass and make it more vulnerable to stress.

If no herbicides have been applied to the grass, homeowners can rake the clippings and use them as mulch around trees, shrubs or flowers.

Lawn mower manufacturers now offer mulching mowers that keep the clippings circulating under the mower deck, chopping the grass blades into finer pieces. This hastens the decomposition of the clippings and reduces the amount of residue left on the lawn, however, you don't have to buy a mulching mower to recycle clippings. Ordinary lawn mowers also will provide good results.

cessor. Cover steaks with marinade and refrigerate. Turn twice a day for 4 to 6 days. Cook, grill, broil, or fry according to desired method.

ANSWER — Cynthia Anton, Morgantown, requests a recipe for deviled ham that tastes like the Underwood brand. Thanks to Mary Watkins of Clarksburg, Md., for sending a recipe. She checked 15 cookbooks to find this recipe.

Deviled Ham Spread

- 2 cups cut-up cooked ham
- 2 teaspoons prepared mustard
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- Pinch cayenne pepper and mace
- Radishes for garnish

Grind the ham. Add seasonings; taste and increase the seasonings if desired. Pack into a mold and chill. Before serving, turn onto a plate and serve as a spread for hot popovers. Add garnish. Makes 1½ cups.



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