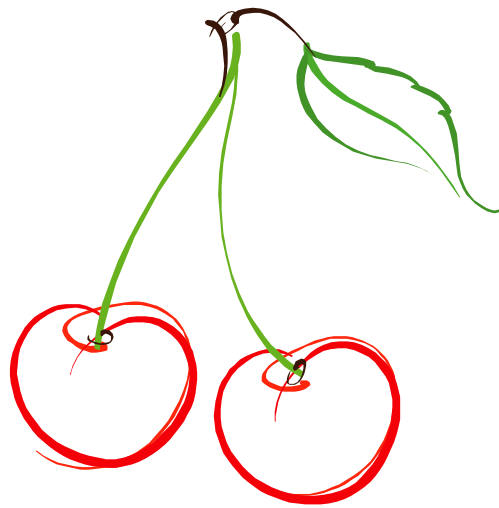


Tart Cherry Health Report

Discover the Secrets of the Montmorency Tart Cherry



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Tart Cherry Health Report

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The Tart Cherry

The tart cherry has a long history of offering an entire range of natural health benefits. In fact the tart cherry has traveled the world from Asia to Europe and finally brought to the new world by the early settlers in 1600's. The cherry has pleased the palates of people for centuries. This ruby-red color has won it a place on the tables of Roman conquerors, Chinese nobleman and Greek citizens.

Once arriving in the New World, the cherry spread across the country. Ultimately, they ended up being grown commercially in several states including New York, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Michigan. One area of the country has earned the nickname "Cherry Capital of the World". This section of Northwestern Lower Michigan produces approximately 60% of U.S. tart cherry production. The area of Michigan is also referred to as Traverse Bay region of Michigan.

The pioneer who is widely credited to bring the tart cherry to Michigan is Mr. Dougherty. In 1852, Mr. Dougherty, a Presbyterian missionary planted the first tart cherry tree on Old Mission Peninsula. After his first trees were successful, many of his neighbors also started planting cherry crops and the first official commercial tart cherry orchards in Michigan were planted in 1893 on Ridgewood Farm on Old Mission Peninsula. In fact, this first commercial farm was very near the site of Dougherty's original trees.

By the early 1900s, the cherry industry was fast spreading from Old Mission to a number of cities and towns along Lake Michigan including Traverse City area, Benton Harbor and Elk Rapids. The very first cherry processing facility was called Traverse City Canning Company and was built just south of Traverse City. Once harvested and processed, the cherry was soon shipped to major cities across America including Detroit, Chicago and Milwaukee.

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Natural Health Benefits of the Tart Cherry

The tart cherry offers a number natural health benefits and is a source for a number of nutrients. The amazing stories of the natural health benefits have been passed down from generation to generation. They have been passed from mother to daughter and grandfather to grandson.

In addition, several of the world's leading food research universities and organizations have studied the tart cherry. Many of these studies are being funded by USDA grants (United States Department of Agricultural), private funds and public grants.

The purpose of this special report is to introduce you to the health benefits and antioxidant properties of the tart cherry. Ongoing research from leading medical universities and research organizations suggests tart cherries may...

- Provide the body with high levels of ORAC units
- Helps maintain a healthy cardiovascular system*
- Helps maintain healthy sleep patterns*
- Helps maintain healthy joint function*

Similar to other foods, tart cherries are a natural source of antioxidants. However, thanks to the unique makeup and combination of the antioxidants found in tart cherries is what makes the tart cherry so special. According to research, tart cherries are a source of beta carotene, melatonin, fiber, potassium, anthocyanins and more.

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Also, when comparing the tart cherry to other types of fruit, the cherry offers very good nutrient values. For example, according to the USDA National Database on Food Nutrition, frozen tart cherries are higher in beta carotene than frozen strawberries and blueberries. (Below is a comparison chart for your review) However, before we view the entire chart, here are some of the nutritional values for different types of cherry products:

Nutritional Information on Select Tart Cherry Products

Daily serving (1/4 cup – 45g) of dried tart cherries provides the following:

- 138 Calories
- 4.55 g protein
- 28.9g Carbohydrates
- .23g Fat

Daily serving (1 oz. – 28.3g) of tart cherry juice concentrate

- 74 Calories
- .92 g protein
- 17.5g Carbohydrates
- 0g Fat

Daily serving (1/2 cup – 67g) of frozen tart cherries

- 28 Calories
- .65 g protein
- 6.35g Carbohydrates
- .4g Fat

Daily serving (1/2 oz. – 121g) of canned tart cherries

- 37 Calories
- .90 g protein
- 8.13g Carbohydrates
- .07g Fat

* Nutritional analysis conducted by the American Analytical Chemistry Laboratories Corporation

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Select Nutrients in Tart Cherries Compared to Other Fruits

Select Fruit (100 grams)	Vitamin A IU	Beta Carotene MCG	Vitamin B6 MG	Thiamin MG	Iron MG	Potassium MG
Tart Cherries Frozen	870	522	.067	.044	.53	124
Watermelon Raw	569	303	.045	.033	.24	112
Peaches Raw	326	162	.025	.024	.25	190
Blueberries Frozen	46	28	.059	.032	.18	54
Strawberries Frozen	45	27	.028	.022	.75	148
Raspberries Raw	33	12	.055	.032	.69	151
Oranges Raw	225	71	.060	.087	.10	181

Source: USDA National Nutrient Database

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What is an Antioxidant?

An antioxidant may be defined as various substances including but not limited to (beta-carotene, melatonin and Vitamin C). These may inhibit oxidation promoted by oxygen and antioxidants may help protect the body from the effects of damaging free radicals.

A number of studies have repeatedly shown that maintaining high levels of antioxidants may help to maintain a healthy body. What exactly is a free radical?

Free radicals can be defined as unstable molecules that have lost an oxygen molecule. Basically, these unsteady molecules steal oxygen molecules from healthy cells. A real world example of the affects of free radicals on healthy cells is the actual browning of a freshly cut apple or potato.

If you have ever noticed that after you cut an apple or a potato, the freshly cut potato or apple starts to turn brown. What you are witnessing are the affects of free radicals on healthy cells. Some people like to call this exposure “cellular rust”. This “rusting” of the healthy cells may be similar to what occurs in the body. Antioxidants help the body to fight these free radicals. In addition, you may have also heard the term ORAC?

The ORAC value (Oxygen Radical Absorption Capability) measures the total antioxidant value of different foods that are measured. The ORAC value indicates how many free radicals a specific food can absorb and deactivate. So the higher the ORAC value, the more free radicals a food can absorb. The higher the score, the better.

According to some nutrition experts, it is estimated the body to consumption of 3,000 to 5,000 ORAC units daily to reach significant oxygen capacity in the blood. These levels helps the body to realize the ORAC benefits in food.

What are Anthocyanins?

It is the Anthocyanins that give nature its colors. If a fruit or vegetable has color, then Anthocyanins are present. Fruit such are blueberries, cherries, strawberries, apples, and red

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raspberries all have Anthocyanins present. Anthocyanins are also the phytochemicals that are responsible for changing the colors of the leaves during the Autumn months.

To date, over 300 distinct types of Anthocyanins have been identified and they have been the study of numerous botanists due to their phytoprotective capabilities. Anthocyanins belong to a single class of flavonoids. The class of flavonoids also include a number of different sub classes including flaon-3-ols, flavones and flavonols to name a few different ones. According to research, the different classes of flavonoids offer different oxidations states. So from an oxidative point of view different fruits and vegetables offer different ORAC values and levels.

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Tart Cherries and Antioxidant Compounds

A number of research universities and medical schools continue to research and publish more healthy evidence of the tart cherry.

In 2006, an article published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* the tart cherry ranked 14 of the top 50 foods in a study for total ORAC per serving. The article stated that the ORAC value of the tart cherry surpassed to following foods: red wine, orange juice, prune and even dark chocolate.

Cherry Products	ORAC Units Per Serving
Frozen Cherries – ½ cup	1,362
Dried Cherries – ¼ cup	3,060
Cherry Juice Concentrate – 1 oz.	3,622

* Jean Mayer USDA Human Research Center on Aging and Brunswick Laboratory

Melatonin Identified in Cherries

The University of Texas Health Science Center has identified and began to quantify the activity of presence of melatonin in cherries and cherry products. Melatonin is an antioxidant that shows it can be an excellent way to help maintain the body's circadian rhythms and natural sleep patterns.

Dr. Russel Reiter and Dr. Dun-xian Tan from the University of Texas Health Science Center has used radioimmunoassay (RIA) and high performance liquid chromatography to identify substantial levels of melatonin in tart cherry juice concentrate. According the Dr. Reiter, the amount found in cherry juice concentrate "is extremely significant." Melatonin is naturally found in the body in extremely small quantities and slight increases in melatonin levels can produce very positive results.

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The researchers are now working to determine the amount of active melatonin available to the human body after the consumption of tart cherry juice or other cherry products. Once identified, researchers will be able to calculate the optimum level of cherries that should be consumed to achieve the greatest health benefit. Dr. Reiter points out, "as we age, the human body's ability to produce melatonin decreases," so it may be beneficial to find a way to increase melatonin levels, particularly for the elderly. Including cherries as part of a healthy diet could be a way to do this.

Tart Cherry Products and Melatonin:

Cherry Products	Melatonin Levels
Fresh Tart Cherries:	Up to 13.5 nanograms (ng) of Melatonin per gram
Tart Cherry Juice Concentrate:	Has up to 10 times more the Melatonin per gram when compared to the raw fruit.
Tart Cherry Powder	137+ ng per gram

* Result conducted by Dr. Russell Reiter - *Cherry powder is used to make tart cherry capsules

Soothe Sore Muscles Due to Physical Exercise with Tart Cherries*

A highly-concentrate, fresh tart cherry juice blend has been shown to help soothe sore muscle due to physical exercise* The study was conducted at The University of Vermont with colleagues at New York's Nicholas Institute of Sports Medicine and Athletic Trauma and Cornell University. The results of the study showed the tart cherry juice blend helped in preventing the symptoms of muscle pain and damage in 14 male college student participants. This was a placebo-controlled study used by the researchers.

During the study, the participants were asked to drink either bottle of the cherry juice blend or a placebo twice a day for 3 days before exercising. The 12-ounce study bottle of cherry juice contained the liquid equivalent of 50 to 60 tart cherries. The study participants were then asked to tense and flex one arm 20 times to encourage muscle contraction.

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The research study asked the participants to rate the muscle soreness on a scale of one to ten. The results of the study indicated that there was a significant difference in the degree of muscle strength between the tart cherry juice product and the placebo. Those drinking the placebo, muscle strength fell by 22 percent while those drinking the cherry juice product fell by only 4 percent. In addition, the average pain score between the placebo and the cherry drink was 3.2 compared to only 2.4. The results indicated muscle pain was less with those that drink the cherry juice. So no matter your age, if you have sore muscles consider adding tart cherry juice to your daily diet.

Cherries and a Healthy Cardiovascular System*

Cherries are packed full of powerful health-promoting properties. Research indicates tart cherries contain at least 17 natural compounds including beta carotene, vitamin A, Melatonin and phenol compounds known as flavonoids.

Brunswick Labs located in Wareham, MA discovered that tart cherries also contain a class of compounds called SOD (super oxide dismutase), which act as super scavengers of dangerous free radicals throughout the body. Very few foods contain SOD and the human body is often lacking in SOD

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Seven Ideas to Get Tart Cherries into Your Daily Diet

With today's active and hectic lifestyles, incorporating cherries into your daily diet may seem difficult. Here are a ten simple ideas to enjoy the natural health benefits of cherries everyday:

1. ***Create A Fruity Parfait*** – Add some granola to yogurt and some frozen cherries for tasty snack.
2. ***Enjoy Straight from the Bag*** – Cherries are available in single serve size packs of 4 oz or 8 oz. dried cherry bags. Keep these single serve bags in your desk drawer or purse for a quick and healthy snack.
3. ***Convenient and Easy with Tart Cherry Capsules***- Easy-to-swallow cherry capsules are a great way to get to the antioxidant health benefits of the tart cherry. They are very convenient and they don't need refrigeration. Just two cherry capsules equal the specific antioxidant equivalent of five glasses of tart cherry juice without the sugar.
4. ***Add Cherries to Breakfast*** – Toss and handful of frozen or dried cherries to your favorite breakfast recipe, oatmeal or cereal.
5. ***Sprinkle Away*** – Sprinkle tart cherry powder on all types of food for both a yummy cherry taste and a meal rich in anti-oxidants. Tart cherry powder is very versatile.
6. ***Blend It Up*** – Wheat germ, some ice, a banana, frozen berries, low-fat milk and cherry juice concentrate to start the day off right. Enjoy this on the way to work.
7. ***Cherries on the Go*** – Add an ounce of tart cherry juice concentrate to your water bottle and shake. This quick and easy mixture will make a 100% pure and refreshing cherry drink. This is great to enjoy while driving, biking or walking.

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Tart Cherry Supplements and Tart Cherry Products

You can get the natural health benefits of tart cherries in many different ways including fresh cherries, cherry capsules, cherry juice concentrate, cherry powder and more. Below are a few of the many different types of the tart cherry-based products.

- **Fresh Tart Cherries:** Fresh tart cherries are the best way to get this tasty fruit. However, they are only available for a few short weeks during the summer harvest. Thus, finding fresh cherries may be very difficult. We ship fresh cherries from mid-July to mid-August.

- **Frozen Tart Cherries:** Frozen tart cherries may be available in the refrigeration section of your local grocery store.

- **Canned Tart Cherries:** Canned cherries may be available in the canned section of your local grocery store.

- **Dried Tart Cherries:** Dried cherries make an excellent snack. They also make a great addition to your morning cereal. A ¼ cup of dried cherries delivers 3,060 ORAC units and 15% of the recommended daily allowance of fiber. We offer dried cherries in both 8 oz. bags and in 25 lb. bulk boxes.



- **Tart Cherry Juice Concentrate:** It takes about 100 cherries to make one ounce of tart cherry juice concentrate. According to recently published in Nutritional Practitioner, 25ml of cherry juice concentrate has an ORAC value of 8,290. The ORAC level of cherry juice was 8,260 compared to 1,790 of the various fruits and vegetables used in the study. The study used Montmorency tart cherries grown in the USA. The 8,260 ORAC value is above the daily recommended range of 3,000 – 5,000 ORAC units recommended.



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- **Tart Cherry Capsules:** Tart cherry capsules are the easiest and most convenient way to get the natural benefits of the tart cherry. We offer free shipping on our tart cherry capsules.

• **Cherry Prime - Tart Cherry + Glucosamine and Chondroitin:** Cherry Prime is a patented formula designed to promote flexibility*, range of motion* and comfort*. By combining these three ingredients into a patent-pending formula, Cherry Prime is at the leading edge of super fruit supplements. We offer free shipping on Fruit Advantage Cherry Prime.



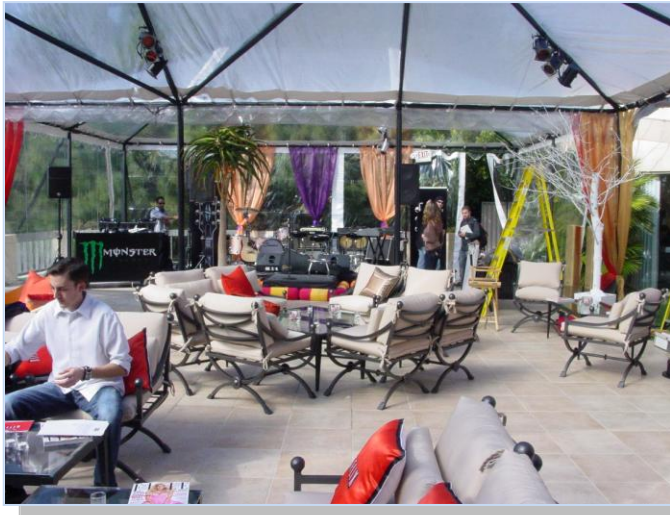
- **Tart Cherry Powder:** Tart cherry powder has been the subject of many leading magazine articles and used in tart cherry research. In a recent edition of Arthritis Today, tart cherry powder was mentioned as a way to maintain healthy joints* We offer tart cherry powder in 4 oz. bags and each 4 oz. bag is a 93-day supply.

[Click Here to Learn More Tart Cherry Products](#)

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Delicious Cherry Recipes

Tart cherries make an excellent addition to almost any recipe. You can add cherries to both hot and cold dishes. Below is a photo of one of events we have attended to share our products. This



is was tent event in the Hollywood Hills, California. When this photo was taken, everything was still getting set up for the upcoming show.

During this event we introduced many in Hollywood to the great taste of our cherry products.

We shared some recipes that included our dried cherries, cherry salsa, chocolate-

covered dried cherries and more.

To the right is one of our tables. This table included dried cherries, chocolate-covered dried cherries and more.

The chocolate-covered cherries and dried cherries are in the black plastic containers while tasty cherry desserts were available for a quick treat on the 3-riser plate stand.

Below we have provided over 48 great tasting cherry recipes for all occasions. Make your own party with these great tasting cherry recipes.



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Sensational Stuffed Mushrooms

Hot out of the oven, mushroom caps are an elegant appetizer.

- 30 large mushrooms (about 1 pound)
- 1/2 pound bulk pork sausage
- 1 cup chopped dried tart cherries
- 2 green onions, sliced
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened

Pull stems from mushrooms and discard (or save for another use). Rinse mushroom caps; drain well. Set aside.

Cook sausage in a large skillet 5 minutes, or until sausage is done. Stir occasionally to break up meat. Remove from heat. Add dried cherries, green onions and cream cheese; mix well. Fill each mushroom cap with a heaping teaspoon of sausage mixture. Place filled mushrooms on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake in a preheated 425-degree oven 6 to 8 minutes. Serve immediately.

Makes 30.

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Cherry Salsa

Served with grilled poultry, roast pork or tortilla chips, this spicy mixture wows traditional salsa lovers.

- 1 1/3 cups frozen unsweetened tart cherries
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped dried tart cherries
- 1/4 cup finely chopped red onion
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh or canned jalapeno peppers, or to taste
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro or 1/2 teaspoon dried cilantro
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch

Coarsely chop frozen tart cherries. Let cherries thaw and drain, reserving 1 tablespoon cherry juice. When cherries are thawed, put drained cherries, dried cherries, onion, jalapenos, garlic and cilantro in a medium saucepan; mix well. In a small container, combine reserved cherry juice and cornstarch; mix until smooth, then stir into cherry mixture. Cook, stirring constantly, over medium-high heat until mixture is thickened. Let cool. Serve with tortilla chips and/or cooked chicken or pork.

Makes about 1 cup.

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Cherry Delicious Couscous Salad

The perfect accompaniment for meat or poultry.

- 1 cup water or chicken broth
- 3/4 cup quick-cooking couscous, uncooked
- 1/2 cup dried tart cherries
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped carrots
- 1/2 cup chopped unpeeled cucumber
- 1/4 cup sliced green onions
- 1/4 cup toasted pine nuts or slivered almonds (optional)
- 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon Dijon-style mustard
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Bring water or broth to a boil in a medium saucepan; stir in couscous. Remove from heat; let stand, covered, 5 minutes. Fluff with a fork. Uncover; let cool 10 minutes.

Combine cooked couscous, dried cherries, carrots, cucumber, green onions and pine nuts in a large bowl. Combine vinegar, olive oil and mustard; mix well. Pour vinegar mixture over couscous mixture; mix well. Season with salt and pepper. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Makes 4 cups; about 6 servings.

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Cherry Chewbiles

Beyond ordinary, try these cookies made with extraordinary dried cherries!

- 1 cup margarine, softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 package (10 ounces) vanilla-flavored morsels or 1 cup coarsely chopped white chocolate
- 1 1/2 cups dried tart cherries
- 1 cup coarsely chopped cashews

Put margarine, granulated sugar, brown sugar, eggs and vanilla in a large mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed 3 to 4 minutes, or until well mixed. Combine flour and baking soda. Gradually add flour mixture to butter mixture; mix well. Stir in vanilla-flavored morsels, dried cherries and cashews. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased baking sheets.

Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 10 to 12 minutes, or until light golden brown. Do not overbake. Transfer to wire racks to cool. Store in a tightly covered container. These cookies freeze well.

Makes 4 to 5 dozen.



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Cherry Tiramisu

Smooth and easy describe this layered cherry dessert that is a variation of an Italian classic.

- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup coffee liqueur
- 30 (2-inch) shortbread cookies (such as Lorna Doones)
- 1 can (21 ounces) cherry filling and topping
- Grated chocolate, for garnish (optional)
- Fresh mint leaves, for garnish (optional)

Put ricotta cheese, confectioners' sugar, sour cream and coffee liqueur in a large mixing bowl; stir to mix well. Set aside.

Put cookies, a few at a time, in an electric blender or food processor container. Process until finely crushed. You should have about 1 1/2 cups of cookie crumbs.

Remove 6 cherries from cherry filling; reserve for garnish.

To assemble dessert, spoon 2 tablespoons ricotta cheese mixture into each of six (8-ounce) parfait glasses. Add 2 tablespoons cookie crumbs to each glass; top each with 2 tablespoons cherry filling. Repeat ricotta, crumb and cherry layers. Finish each serving with an equal portion of the remaining ricotta cheese mixture.

Garnish with reserved cherries, grated chocolate and mint leaves, if desired. Let chill 2 to 3 hours before serving.

Makes 6 servings.

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Cherry Peanut Pizzaz

This is an easy-to-prepare snack, perfect for holiday parties or gift giving.

- 2 cup lightly salted peanuts
- 1 cup dried tart cherries
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt, or to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper (cayenne pepper), or to taste
- Vegetable oil

Combine peanuts and cherries in a medium bowl. In a small bowl, combine Worcestershire sauce, garlic powder, seasoned salt, cumin and red pepper; mix well. Pour over peanut mixture; stir to coat.

Heat 1 or 2 teaspoons of oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add peanut mixture. Cook, stirring constantly, 3 to 4 minutes, or until peanuts are light brown. Do not allow mixture to burn. Add more oil, if needed. Remove from heat. Spread on waxed paper or aluminum foil to cool. Store in a tightly covered container.

Makes 3 cups.

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Cherry Almond Clusters

A sweet treat for any gathering.

- 1 (8-ounce) package semisweet baking chocolate
- 1 cup slivered almonds, toasted
- 1 cup dried tart cherries



Put chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on High (100%) power 2 minutes, stirring halfway through the heating time. Stir until chocolate is completely melted. Add almonds and dried cherries; mix until completely coated with chocolate. Drop by teaspoons onto waxed paper. Refrigerate until is firm.

To toast almonds: Spread almonds on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 5 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Makes 2 dozen.

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National Cherry Month Recipes

Traditional Cherry Pie

George Washington's favorite dessert can be yours, too.

- 2 (16-ounce) cans unsweetened tart cherries or 4 cups frozen unsweetened tart cherries
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- Pastry for 2-crust, 9-inch pie
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine

If using canned cherries, drain them well. Discard the juice or save for another use. If using frozen cherries, it is not necessary to thaw them. Combine well drained canned cherries or frozen cherries, granulated sugar, tapioca and almond extract in a large mixing bowl; mix well. Let stand 15 minutes.

Line a 9-inch pie plate with pastry; fill with cherry mixture. Dot with butter. Adjust top crust, cutting slits for steam to escape, or cut top crust into strips and make a lattice-top pie.

Bake in a preheated 400-degree oven 50 to 55 minutes, or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly.

Makes 8 servings.

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Cherry Blossoms

Prepared the night before, breakfast rolls have never been easier.

- 2/3 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 cup dried tart cherries, divided
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 1 loaf (14 to 16 ounces) frozen white bread dough, thawed
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

In a small mixing bowl, combine confectioners' sugar and milk; mix well. Pour mixture into a 9-inch deep-dish pie pan. Sprinkle 1/2 cup of the cherries and pecans evenly over sugar mixture.

On a lightly floured surface, roll bread dough into a 12x8-inch rectangle; brush with melted butter. In a small mixing bowl, combine brown sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle over dough. Top with remaining 1/2 cup cherries. Roll up rectangle, jelly-roll style, starting from a long side; pinch to seal edges. With a sharp knife, cut roll into 12 slices.

Place slices, cut-side down, on top of mixture in pan. Let rise, covered, in a warm place 30 minutes, or until nearly double. (Or, cover with waxed paper, then with plastic wrap. Refrigerate 2 to 24 hours. Before baking, let chilled rolls stand, covered, 20 minutes at room temperature.)

Bake, uncovered, in a preheated 375-degree oven 20 to 25 minutes for unchilled rolls and 25 to 30 minutes for chilled rolls, or until golden brown. If necessary, cover rolls with foil the last 10 minutes to prevent overbrowning. Let cool in pan 1 to 2 minutes. Invert onto a serving platter. Serve warm.

Makes 12 rolls.

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Cherry-Chocolate Heart

Taste tempting flavors of hot fudge sauce and whipped cream pair up with cherries for a Valentine's Day dessert that is guaranteed to melt hearts.

- 1 (15-ounce) package refrigerated pie crusts
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 2/3 cup hot fudge ice cream topping
- 1 (21-ounce) can cherry filling and topping

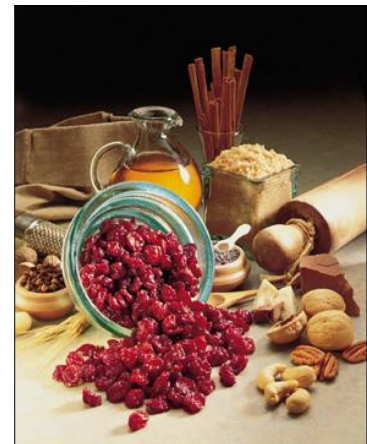
Allow both crust pouches to stand at room temperature 15 to 20 minutes. Remove one crust from pouch; unfold. Press out fold lines. If crust cracks, wet fingers and push edges together. Sprinkle 1 teaspoon flour over crust. Turn crust, floured side down, on ungreased cookie sheet. Using paper pattern as guide, cut crust into heart shape.* Generously prick heart crust with fork. Bake in a preheated 450-degree oven 9 to 11 minutes, or until lightly browned. Let cool. Repeat with the remaining crust.

Combine cream cheese, confectioners' sugar and almond extract in a small bowl; beat until smooth. Add whipping cream and beat until thickened.

To assemble, place one heart-shaped pie crust on serving plate; spread with 1/3 cup of the hot fudge. Carefully spread half of cream cheese mixture over hot fudge. Spoon 2/3 of the cherry filling over cream cheese. Spread second crust with remaining hot fudge and place over filling. Carefully spread with remaining cream cheese mixture. Spoon remaining cherry filling about 1 inch from edge. Refrigerate until serving time. Store any remaining torte in refrigerator.

Makes 8 to 10 servings.

* To make pattern, cut a piece of paper into a heart shape about 10 1/2 inches high and 10 inches wide.



Tart Cherry Health Report

Sweetheart Puff

Heart's will throb when they see and taste this delightful dessert.

- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry (1/2 of a 17 1/4-ounce package), thawed
- 6 ounces semisweet chocolate
- 1/4 cup margarine
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 (21-ounce) can cherry pie filling and topping
- 1 cup whipped topping

Unfold pastry on lightly floured surface; roll out to smooth folds. Cut out a large heart shape (approximately 9 x 8-inches). Put on baking sheet. Wet edge of pastry with water; fold in edge toward center about 1/2-inch. Press down edges with fork tines. Prink center area of pastry with fork tines several times.

Place a piece of foil cut to fit the center of the heart; top with pie weights, dry beans or uncooked rice to prevent puffing. Bake in a preheated 400-degree oven 8 minutes. Remove foil with rice or beans. Bake 4 to 7 minutes longer, or until golden brown. Carefully remove heart to a wire rack; let cool completely.

Melt chocolate, margarine and heavy cream in a medium saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly. Stir in vanilla. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Place heart on serving plate. Spread chocolate mixture over center of heart. Refrigerate 30 minutes. Spoon cherry pie filling over chocolate layer. Pipe or spoon whipped topping around edge of tart. Refrigerate until serving time.

Makes 6 servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Black Forest Upside-Down Sundae

This easy-to-prepare dessert is a crowd pleaser.

- 1 (10-ounce) jar maraschino cherries, drained
- 1 quart vanilla ice cream, softened
- 1/2 cup hot fudge topping
- 10 cream-filled chocolate cookies (such as Oreos), crushed
- Maraschino cherries with stems, for garnish

Line a 5-cup gelatin mold or bowl with aluminum foil. Arrange 12 whole cherries on the bottom of the foil. Chop remaining cherries; fold into softened ice cream. Spoon half of the ice cream mixture into bottom of mold. Spoon fudge topping over ice cream; spread remaining ice cream over the fudge topping. Sprinkle cookie crumbs over top of ice cream; press lightly. Freeze 4 to 6 hours or until firm. Carefully pull foil out of mold and unmold with cookie crumbs on bottom on a chilled plate. Garnish with maraschino cherries with stems, if desired.

Makes 8 servings.

Note: This dessert can be made up to one week ahead; cover with foil.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Chocolate Angel Cake

This dessert is perfect for Valentine's Day or any special occasion

- 1 (16-ounce) package angel food cake mix
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 1-1/2 cups plus 2 tablespoons hot fudge topping, divided
- 2 cups whipped topping, divided
- 1 (21-ounce) can cherry pie filling, divided

Prepare cake mix according to package directions, mixing cocoa with dry ingredients. Spoon batter evenly into an ungreased 10-inch tube pan. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven as directed on the package. Let cool as package directs.

When cake is completely cooled, carefully remove from pan. Cut horizontally in half. Place one half, cut side up, on serving plate. Spread with 3/4 cup fudge topping. (Do not heat topping.) Cover with 1 cup whipped topping, then half of the cherry pie filling. Place the other half of the cake over cherries, cut side down. Spread with 3/4 cup fudge topping. Cover with remaining 1 cup whipped topping and remaining cherry pie filling. Refrigerate 1 hour. Just before serving, drizzle remaining 2 tablespoons fudge topping over cherry pie filling.

Makes 12 servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Maraschino Cherry Recipes

Cherry Flyers

This refreshing drink is a great mid-day pick-me-up.

- 1/2 cup (about 14) maraschino cherries, drained
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 (8-ounce) container cherry yogurt
- 1-3/4 cup whipped topping (about 1/2 of an 8-ounce container), thawed
- 3/4 cup pineapple juice
- Maraschino cherries and fresh pineapple, for garnish

Put cherries, orange juice, yogurt, whipped topping and pineapple juice in an electric blender. Blend 1 to 2 minutes, or until smooth. Serve over ice.

Makes 4 (6-ounce) servings.



Tart Cherry Health Report

Maraschino Thumbprint Cookies

These rich chocolate cookies are pretty as well as delicious.

- 2 (10-ounce) jars maraschino cherries
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 tablespoons milk

Drain maraschino cherries, reserving 1 teaspoon juice. Put butter and sugar in medium bowl. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed 3 to 4 minutes, or until well blended. Add egg and vanilla; mix well. Combine flour, cocoa, salt and baking powder; add flour mixture to butter mixture. Beat until well mixed.

Put chocolate chips and milk in a small saucepan. Heat, stirring constantly, over low heat until chocolate melts. Stir in reserved maraschino cherry juice. Let cool slightly.

Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Place on an ungreased baking pan. Push in center with your thumb; spoon 1 teaspoon chocolate mixture into each thumbprint and top with a cherry.

Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 10 to 12 minutes, or until cookies are firm. Remove to wire racks. Let cool completely. Store in an airtight container.

Makes about 3 dozen.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Frozen Fruit Salad

This salad is so good you could serve it for dessert.

- 1 (16-ounce) jar maraschino cherries
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 (20-ounce) can crushed pineapple
- 1 (11-ounce) can mandarin oranges, drained
- 2-1/2 cups miniature marshmallows (1/2 of a 10-1/2-ounce bag)
- 1 (8-ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- Lettuce leaves
- Fresh mint

Drain cherries, reserving 1/4 cup juice. Set aside. Put cream cheese and pineapple with juice in a medium mixing bowl; beat with an electric mixer on medium speed 3 to 4 minutes, or until combined.

Stir in mandarin oranges and cherries with 1/4 cup cherry juice. Gently fold in marshmallows and whipped topping. Spread evenly in a 13x9x2-inch baking pan. Freeze 4-6 hours, or overnight. Serve on a lettuce leaf; garnish with fresh mint.

Makes 12 to 15 servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Banana Split French Toast

Surprise your family with this wonderful brunch entree.

- 1 (10-ounce) jar maraschino cherries
- 1 (16-ounce) loaf French bread
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 (8-ounce) can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1/3 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips
- 4 eggs
- 1/3 cup milk
- 4 small ripe bananas, halved lengthwise
- 2 cups frozen whipped topping (about 2/3 of an 8-ounce container), thawed
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- Maple syrup, warmed

Cut 4 maraschino cherries in half; set aside for garnish. Chop remaining cherries. Cut off and discard ends of bread loaf. Slice remaining loaf into 16 (1/2-inch to 3/4-inch) slices.

Combine cream cheese, sugar and vanilla in a medium mixing bowl; beat with an electric mixer at medium speed 3 to 4 minutes, or until creamy. By hand, stir in pineapple, chocolate chips and chopped cherries; mix well.

Spray a 15x10x1-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. Combine eggs and milk in a shallow bowl or pie plate. Dip one side of 1 bread slice into egg mixture. Place on baking pan, dipped side down. Gently spread with 1/8 of cream cheese mixture; top with a banana half. Repeat with 7 more slices.

Dip one side of each of the remaining 8 bread slices in egg mixture. Place, dipped side up, on top of banana. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 35 to 40 minutes, or until tops are light golden brown and centers are set.

To serve, top each serving with 1/4 cup whipped topping, 1-1/2 teaspoons chopped pecans and 1 reserved cherry half. Serve with maple syrup.

Makes 8 servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Cherry-rific Shake

Kids--and adults--will like this fun beverage.

- 3/4 cup cherry yogurt
- 2/3 cup (about 18) maraschino cherries, drained
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1-1/2 cups chocolate frozen yogurt or chocolate ice cream, softened
- Maraschino cherries, whipped topping and chocolate shavings, for garnish



Put cherry yogurt, cherries and milk in an electric blender; blend well. Add frozen yogurt; blend until smooth. Pour into chilled glasses. Garnish with whipped topping, chocolate shavings and cherries.

Makes 2 (8-ounce) servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Caramel-Cherry Sticky Buns

Treat your family to this easy-to-prepare breakfast roll.

- 12 bite-size caramel candies
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 cup (about 14) well-drained maraschino cherries, halved
- 1/4 cup pecans, chopped
- 1 (12-ounce) package refrigerated buttermilk biscuits (10 biscuits per package)

Melt caramels and milk in a small heavy saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly until smooth. Pour caramel mixture into a well-greased 9-inch glass pie plate.

Place cherries, rounded sides down, over caramel mixture; sprinkle with pecans. Separate biscuits and place snugly in pan.

Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 22 to 25 minutes, or until golden brown. Invert immediately onto serving plate, scraping any remaining caramel over biscuits.

Serve warm. Makes 10 buns.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Cherry S'more Brownies

A campfire favorite has a new twist.

- 1 (10-ounce) jar maraschino cherries
- 1 (19.5-ounce) package fudge brownie mix (for 13x9-inch pan)
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 8 whole graham crackers
- 1/2 cup milk chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup miniature marshmallows

Drain maraschino cherries on paper towels; cut in half. Set aside.

Prepare brownie mix according to package directions, using oil, water and eggs.

Spread melted butter in a 13x9x2-inch pan. Cover bottom of pan with a layer of graham crackers. (If necessary, cut crackers with serrated knife to make them fit pan.) Spread brownie batter over crackers.

Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 5 minutes less than directed on the package. Sprinkle chocolate chips, pecans, cherries and marshmallows over the top. Return to oven; bake an additional 5 to 8 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out almost clean. Let cool. Cut into squares.

Makes 24 squares.

Third prize winner from TerryAnn Moore, Haddon Township, NJ

Tart Cherry Health Report

Low-Fat Cherry Recipes

Cherry Oatmeal Muffins

Perfect for breakfast-on-the-run or lunchbox treats.

Makes 12 muffins

Calories per muffin: 159 calories

Total fat per muffin: 5.2 grams; 18 mg cholesterol

Percent fat from calories: 29%

- 1 cup old-fashioned or quick-cooking oats, uncooked
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 3/4 cup buttermilk
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup frozen tart cherries, coarsely chopped

Put oats, flour, brown sugar, baking powder and nutmeg in a large mixing bowl; mix well. Combine buttermilk, egg, oil and almond extract in a small bowl. Pour buttermilk mixture into oats mixture; stir just to moisten ingredients. Quickly stir in cherries (it is not necessary to thaw cherries before chopping and adding to batter).

Spray muffin pan with non-stick spray. Fill muffin cups two-thirds full. Bake in a preheated 400-degree oven 15 to 20 minutes.

Note: 1 cup canned tart cherries, drained and coarsely chopped, may be substituted for 1 cup frozen tart cherries.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Cherry Rice Pilaf

This flavorful combination proves that nutritious eating doesn't need to be bland and boring.

Makes 8 servings

Calories per serving: 189

Total fat per serving: 6.4 grams; 0 mg. cholesterol

Percent calories from fat: 29%

- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup dried tart cherries
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme (or 1 teaspoon dried)
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh marjoram (or 1 teaspoon dried)
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon margarine
- 3 cups cooked rice

Put onion, celery, cherries, walnuts, thyme, marjoram, pepper and margarine in a large non-stick skillet. Cook, uncovered, over medium heat 10 minutes, or until vegetables are tender; stir occasionally. Add rice; mix well. Cook 3 to 4 minutes, or until thoroughly heated.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Cherry Dream

This easy-to-prepare dessert is perfect for family get-togethers.

Makes 8 servings

Calories per serving: 218 calories

Total fat per serving: 3.4 grams; 0 mg cholesterol

Percent calories from fat: 14%

- 5 cups loosely packed angel food cake cubes (about 10 ounces or 1/2 of large angel food cake)
- 1 (21-ounce) can cherry filling and topping
- 1 3/4 cups (4 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- Fresh mint, for garnish

Sprinkle cake cubes in bottom of 9x9x2-inch baking pan. Fold whipped topping into cherry filling in medium bowl. Spoon cherry mixture evenly over cake cubes. Let chill, covered, several hours or overnight. Garnish each serving with a sprig of mint.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Cherry Good Cobbler

This is a great tasting dessert with less than 1 gram of fat per serving.

Makes 8 servings

Calories per serving: 260

Total fat per serving: 1 gram; 0 mg cholesterol

Percent calories from fat: 3%

- 2 (21-ounce) cans cherry filling and topping
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 cup orange juice

Topping:

- 1 tablespoon slivered almonds, coarsely chopped
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon grated orange peel
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Combine cherry filling and almond extract in an ungreased 8x8x2-inch baking pan.

Combine flour, sugar and baking powder in a large mixing bowl; mix well. Add orange juice, stirring just until dry ingredients are moistened. Drop batter by tablespoonfuls over cherry filling, making at least 8 dumplings.

For topping: Combine almonds, sugar, orange peel and cinnamon in a small bowl; mix well. Sprinkle over dumplings. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 30 to 35 minutes, or until filling is bubbly and dumplings are brown.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Maple Cherry Sauce

Cherries team up with maple syrup for a flavorful sauce that's terrific with roasted or grilled meats or poultry.

Makes 1 1/2 cups; about 6 servings

Calories per serving: 196

Total fat per serving: 6.4 grams; 0 mg cholesterol

Percent calories from fat: 28%

- 1/3 cup cherry juice blend
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup frozen unsweetened tart cherries, thawed and well drained
- 3/4 cup real maple or maple-flavored syrup
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 teaspoon grated orange peel

Put cherry juice blend and cornstarch in a small saucepan; mix well. Cook over medium heat until thickened. Add cherries, maple-flavored syrup, walnuts and orange peel; mix well. Cook, stirring frequently, over low heat until all ingredients are hot. Serve over roast turkey, pork or ham.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Dried Cherry Relish

Serve warm with grilled or blackened fish.

Makes about 2 cups; 12 servings as a relish

Calories per serving: 60

Total fat per serving: 1.2 grams; 0.2 mg cholesterol

Percent calories from fat: 14%

- 1 1/2 cups dried tart cherries
- 1/2 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 large red onion, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper

Combine dried cherries, red wine vinegar and balsamic vinegar in a medium mixing bowl. Let soak 30 minutes.

Heat olive oil in a large skillet. Add onion; cook 5 minutes, or until onion is soft. Add sugar; mix well. Cook, stirring occasionally, over low heat 10 minutes.

Add cherries with soaking liquid to onion mixture. Simmer, uncovered, 10 to 15 minutes, or until almost all the liquid is evaporated. Season with salt and pepper. Serve warm.

Note: Relish may be prepared ahead of time and refrigerated; reheat before serving.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Low-Fat Cherry Smoothie

A quick, easy breakfast treat.

Makes 2 servings (about 1 cup each)

Calories per serving: 125

Total fat per serving: 0.7 grams; 2.2 mg cholesterol

Percent calories from fat: 5%

- 1 very ripe banana, peeled
- 1 cup frozen unsweetened tart cherries
- 1 cup skim milk

Put banana, frozen cherries and milk in the container of an electric blender; purée until smooth. Serve immediately.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Power Bars

A great pick-me-up any time of day.

Makes 32 bars

Calories per bar: 145

Total fat per bar: 4.7 grams; 0 mg cholesterol

Percent calories from fat: 29%

- 3/4 cup margarine
- 2 cups firmly packed brown sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups old-fashioned or quick-cooking oats, uncooked
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 can (21 ounces) cherry filling and topping
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract

Put butter and brown sugar in a large mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed 3 to 4 minutes, or until well mixed. Combine flour, oats and baking soda. Add flour mixture to sugar mixture; beat on low speed until crumbly.

Spread two-thirds of the oats mixture into the bottom of an un-greased 13x9x2-inch baking pan. Press down to make a firm layer.

Put cherry filling in an electric blender or food processor container; purée until smooth. Pour puréed cherry filling into a medium saucepan. Combine granulated sugar and cornstarch; stir into cherry filling. Cook, stirring constantly, over low heat until mixture is thick and bubbly. Stir in almond extract. Pour cherry mixture over oats layer; spread evenly. Top with remaining oats mixture.

Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 30 to 35 minutes, or until golden brown. Let cool before cutting into bars.

Kid Recipes

Cherry S'mores

- 1/2 cup marshmallow creme
 - 1/2 cup dried tart cherries
 - 1/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips
 - 12 graham cracker squares (2* inches each)
1. Put marshmallow creme, cherries and chocolate chips in a medium bowl; mix well.
 2. Place 6 of the graham crackers on a microwave-safe plate. Spoon a heaping tablespoon of marshmallow mixture on each cracker. Top with remaining crackers.
 3. Microwave, uncovered, on High (100% power) 30 to 45 seconds, or until marshmallow mixture is soft and warm. Carefully remove plate from the microwave and set on a hot pad. Let S'mores cool slightly before eating them.

Makes 6 servings.

Note: To prepare in a conventional oven, place 6 of the graham crackers in an ovenproof baking dish. Proceed as above. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 2 to 3 minutes, or until marshmallow mixture is soft and warm. Remove baking dish from the oven with hot pads and set on a hot pad on the counter. Let S'mores cool slightly before eating them.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Dessert To Go

Ice cream cones never tasted so good.

- 1 (10-ounce) jar maraschino cherries
 - 3 cups whipped topping
 - 1 (4-serving-size) package any flavor instant pudding (chocolate is good!)
 - 1-3/4 cups cold milk
 - 6 flat-bottom ice cream cones
 - Colored sprinkles and/or maraschino cherries, for garnish
1. Put a colander or strainer in a bowl. Pour cherries into the strainer, draining the juice into the bowl. Save the juice to add to orange juice or other drinks; you do not need the juice for this recipe.
 2. Put the drained cherries on a cutting board. With a sharp knife, carefully cut each cherry in half. Have an adult show you how to use the knife. Set aside.
 3. Prepare pudding according to package directions using 1-3/4 cups cold milk. Refrigerate pudding 10 minutes.
 4. Meanwhile, put cherry halves in a large mixing bowl. With a rubber spatula, scoop whipped topping into the bowl. Stir gently until cherries are mixed with whipped topping.
 5. Fill each cone with 1/4 cup pudding. Top each with 1/2 cup cherry mixture. Decorate with colored sprinkles or a maraschino cherry. Serve immediately. This dessert is best eaten with a spoon.

Makes 6 servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Critter Munch

Delight your friends with this fun snack.

- 1-1/2 cups animal cracker cookies
 - 1/2 (6-ounce) package cheddar or original flavor goldfish crackers (1-1/2 cups)
 - 1 cup dried tart cherries
 - 1 cup M & M's plain candy
 - 1 cup honey roasted peanuts
1. Put animal crackers, goldfish crackers, dried cherries, M& Ms and peanuts in a large mixing bowl.
 2. Carefully stir with a spoon.
 3. Store in a tightly covered container at room temperature.

Makes 6 cups.

Party Cheese Ball

Save time by preparing this appetizer in advance.

- 1/2 cup (about 14) maraschino cherries
- 2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 (8-ounce) can crushed pineapple, well drained
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped
- Crackers or cut-up vegetables

Drain maraschino cherries on paper towels. Chop cherries and drain again.

Beat cream cheese with electric mixer on medium speed 3 to 4 minutes, or until cream cheese is smooth. Stir in pineapple and cherries. Refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour.

Shape cheese mixture into two (4-inch) balls. Roll cheese balls in walnuts, pressing nuts into surface to adhere. Refrigerate about 1 hour or until chilled.

Serve as a spread with crackers or vegetables. Makes 2 (4-inch) cheese balls.

Tip: You can prepare this appetizer in advance, then freeze it for later use. Allow cheese balls to thaw in refrigerator before serving.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Pretty in Pink Pie

This dessert looks great and tastes even better.

- 1 (16-ounce) jar red maraschino cherries
- 4 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 (8-ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (6-ounce) graham cracker crust

Drain maraschino cherries, saving the juice. Put marshmallows and maraschino juice in a large saucepan; heat over low heat, stirring constantly, until marshmallows are melted and smooth. Let cool completely, stirring occasionally to prevent a skin forming on mixture.

Reserve 6 to 8 cherries for garnish; quarter remaining cherries. Fold 2 cups whipped topping and quartered cherries into marshmallow mixture; spread into graham cracker crust. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or until firm.

Garnish with reserved maraschino cherries and remaining whipped topping.

Makes 6 to 8 servings

Tart Cherry Health Report

Maraschino Cherry Shake

This cool combo will please family and friends.

- 1 (10-ounce) jar maraschino cherries
 - 3 tablespoons maraschino cherry juice
 - 3 cups vanilla ice cream
 - Whipped topping
 - Whole maraschino cherries, for garnish
1. Put a colander or strainer in a bowl. Pour cherries into the strainer. Measure out 3 tablespoons of juice and put it in a small container. You will use these 3 tablespoons of juice to prepare this recipe. You can either discard the remaining juice or save it for another use.
 2. Put cherries from the strainer onto a cutting board. With a sharp knife, carefully cut cherries into small pieces. Have an adult show you how to use the knife.
 3. Put chopped cherries, 3 tablespoons juice and ice cream in the container of an electric blender or food processor; cover blender. Process or blend until smooth. Do not put a spoon or spatula in the blender while it is running and keep your hands clear of the working parts.
 4. Pour into 2 (12-ounce) glasses. Top with whipped topping; garnish with whole maraschino cherries.

Makes 2 (12-ounce) servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Kid's Cherry Smoothie

This is a refreshing pick-me-up any time of day.

- 2 cups frozen tart or sweet cherries
 - 1 ripe banana, peeled
 - 1 cup cherry juice blend (or other juice)
 - Maraschino cherries, for garnish
1. Put frozen cherries, banana and cherry juice blend in container of electric blender or food processor. Cover container. Process or blend until smooth. Do not put a spoon or spatula in the blender while it is running and keep your hands clear of the working parts. If necessary, turn blender off; remove cover. Scrape sides of container with a spatula. Cover and puree until smooth.
 2. Pour into individual serving glasses. Garnish with maraschino cherries, if desired. Serve immediately.

Makes 4 (8-ounce) servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Maraschino Lemonade Pops

This treat is delicious; share it with your friends.

- 1 (10-ounce) jar maraschino cherries
 - 1 (12-ounce) can frozen pink lemonade concentrate, partly thawed
 - 1/4 cup water
 - 8 (3-ounce) paper cups
 - 8 popsicle sticks
1. Put a colander or strainer in a bowl. Pour cherries into the strainer, saving the juice in the bowl.
 2. Put one whole cherry in each paper cup. Put the remaining cherries on a cutting board. With a sharp knife, carefully cut cherries into small pieces. Have an adult show you how to use the knife.
 3. Put chopped cherries, lemonade concentrate, water and the juice you saved from the jar of cherries in the container of an electric blender or food processor. Cover blender or processor. Puree or blend until smooth. Do not put a spoon or spatula in the blender while it is running and keep your hands clear of the working parts.
 4. Fill paper cups with equal amounts of cherry mixture. Freeze 30 to 40 minutes, or until very slushy.
 5. Place popsicle sticks in the center of each cup. Freeze 1 hour longer, or until firm. To serve, peel off paper cups.

Makes 8 servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Cherry Mallow Cake

You'll like this cake -- the marshmallows melt and rise to the top for a glaze.

- 4 cups miniature marshmallows (about 3/4 of a 10-1/2-ounce package)
 - 1 (18-1/4-ounce) package yellow cake mix
 - 1(21-ounce) can cherry pie filling
1. If you have not cooked before, ask an adult to help you with this recipe. It's an easy recipe, but you may not be familiar with using a mixer or the oven.
 2. Spray a 13x9x2-inch baking pan with vegetable cooking spray. Put marshmallows evenly in the bottom of the pan.
 3. Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Pour batter over marshmallows. Spoon cherry filling evenly over cake batter.
 4. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 45 to 50 minutes. The top of the cake will be bubbly and the marshmallows will be sticky on top of the cake. Carefully remove pan from oven with hot pads. Set cake pan on hot pads on counter. Don't forget to turn off the oven.
 5. Let cake cool in pan, then cut into squares with a sharp knife.

Makes about 15 servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Dried Cherry Recipes

Spiced Cherry Salad

Dried cherries add tangy flavor to this colorful salad.

- 1 cup dried tart cherries
- 1 (11-ounce) can mandarin orange sections, drained
- 2 kiwi, peeled and sliced
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup sifted confectioners sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted

Put dried cherries, mandarin orange sections and kiwi slices in a salad bowl. Combine orange juice, confectioners sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl; mix well. Pour orange juice mixture over fruit mixture; mix gently. Refrigerate, covered, 1 to 2 hours, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle with toasted almonds just before serving. Makes 6 servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Carrots with Character

Plain carrots become an elegant side dish with cherries, nutmeg and ginger.

- 1 pound carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup dried tart cherries
- 3 tablespoons maple-flavored syrup
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

Cook carrots in water in a covered 2-quart saucepan 8 to 10 minutes, or until tender. Drain well. Add dried cherries, maple syrup, butter, nutmeg and ginger to cooked carrots; mix to combine ingredients. Cook, stirring occasionally, over medium heat, 3 to 4 minutes, or until sauce is bubbly. makes 6 (1/2 cup) servings

TIPS

- Bread stuffing tastes better with the addition of dried tart cherries.
- Dried tart cherries make good additions to rice pilaf or rice pudding.
- Liven up green salads by sprinkling dried tart cherries over them.
- Add dried cherries to oatmeal or other cereals for a breakfast treat.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Oatmeal Cherry Cookies

This favorite cookie recipe gets a new taste with dried cherries.

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt (optional)
- 2 cups quick-cooking or old-fashioned oats, uncooked
- 1-1/2 cups dried tart cherries
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Put margarine, brown sugar and granulated sugar in a large mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed 3 to 4 minutes, or until creamy. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well. Combine flour, baking powder and salt, if desired; add to egg mixture. Stir in oats, cherries and chocolate chips; mix well.

Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden brown. Let cool 1 minute on cookie sheet; remove to wire rack to cool completely. Store in a tightly covered container. Makes about 4 dozen.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Acorn Squash Bake

Dried cherries bring out the flavor of this easy-to-prepare side dish.

- 2 acorn squash
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1/2 cup dried tart cherries
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- 3 tablespoons firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Cut each acorn squash in half. Remove seeds and fiber. Place cut side down in baking pan with small amount of water in bottom. Bake in a 350-degree oven 45 to 50 minutes or until squash is tender and can be pierced with a fork. (Or place squash cut side down in a microwave-safe container. Add a little water. Microwave on High (100% power) 5 to 7 minutes, turning dish once. Continue cooking, if necessary, until squash is tender.)

Meanwhile, combine butter, cherries, pecans, brown sugar and cinnamon. Heat on top of stove or in microwave oven until butter melts. Fill center of each squash half with one-quarter of the cherry mixture. Mix some of the cooked squash with the cherry filling. Serve immediately. makes 4 servings

TIP - Give trail mixes new flavor with the addition of dried tart cherries. A combination of cherries, banana chips, chocolate chips and peanuts is particularly good.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Brie Torte

This tasty appetizer is easy to transport to parties and makes a great hostess gift.

- 1 (15- to 16-ounce) wheel Brie cheese
- 1/3 cup butter, softened
- 1/3 cup chopped dried tart cherries
- 1/4 cup finely chopped pecans
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme (or 2 teaspoons finely chopped fresh thyme)
- Crackers

Refrigerate Brie until chilled and firm; or freeze 30 minutes, or until firm. Cut Brie in half horizontally.

Combine butter, cherries, pecans and thyme in a small bowl; mix well. Evenly spread mixture on cut-side of one piece of the Brie. Top with the other piece, cut-side down. Lightly press together. Wrap in plastic wrap; refrigerate 1 to 2 hours. To serve, cut into serving size wedges and bring to room temperature. Serve with crackers. makes about 20 appetizer servings

Note: If wrapped securely in plastic wrap, this appetizer will keep in the refrigerator for at least a week.

TIP - Melt semisweet chocolate or white chocolate chips over low heat. Stir in dried cherries. Add toasted almonds, if desired. Mix until coated with chocolate. Spoon into waxed paper for a candy treat that kids and adults will love.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Firecracker Salsa

This spicy mixture wows traditional salsa lovers.

- 1/2 cup dried tart cherries
- 1/2 cup cherry preserves
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup chopped red onion
- 1/2 chopped yellow bell pepper
- 1/4 chopped jalapeno peppers, or to taste
- 1 to 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 teaspoon lime or lemon juice

Combine dried cherries, cherry preserves and vinegar in a small microwave-safe bowl; mix well. Microwave on High (100% power) 1 to 1-1/2 minutes, or until hot. Let stand 5 minutes.

Stir in red onion, yellow bell pepper, jalapeno peppers, cilantro and lime juice. Refrigerate, covered, 3 to 4 hours or overnight. Serve with grilled swordfish or tuna. Its also excellent as a topping for hamburgers. |makes about 1-1/2 cups; enough for 6 to 8 servings with a main course|

TIP - Add 1 cup of dried cherries to traditional cherry pie ã it increases the cherry flavor. Or add about 1/2 cup dried tart cherries to your favorite apple or peach pie recipe. The cherries complement the other fruit in the pie while adding flavor and color.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Cherry Orange Poppy Seed Muffins

These tasty muffins complement any meal.

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon poppy seeds
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, melted
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1/2 cup dried tart cherries
- 3 tablespoons grated orange peel

Combine flour, sugar, poppy seeds, baking powder and salt in a large mixing bowl. Add milk, melted butter and egg, stirring just until dry ingredients are moistened. Gently stir in cherries and orange peel. Fill paper-lined muffin cups 3/4 full.

Bake in a preheated 400-degree oven 18 to 22 minutes, or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Let cool in pan 5 minutes. Remove from pan and serve warm or let cool completely. makes 12 muffins

TIP - Tuck packages of dried tart cherries into lunch boxes. They make a great low-fat snack for kids and adults.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Holiday Recipes

Cherry Spiced Cider

This tasty beverage is a treat for youngsters.

- 1 quart apple cider
- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup maraschino cherry juice
- 1 (3-inch) stick cinnamon
- 1 strip (1/2x3-inches) orange peel
- 3 whole cloves
- 3 whole allspice
- 16 maraschino cherries
- 8 orange slice halves

Put apple cider, orange juice, maraschino cherry juice, cinnamon sticks, orange peel, cloves and allspice in a large saucepan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 15 minutes. Strain out cinnamon sticks, orange peel, cloves and allspice. Place 2 maraschino cherries and 1 orange slice half in each of six mugs. Pour about 2/3 cup spiced cider over cherries. Serve warm.

Makes 8 servings.

Note: Spiced cider can be prepared in advance and reheated just before serving.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Dried Cherry Relish for Turkey

This tangy combo is great with roasted turkey.

- 1/2 cup dried tart cherries
- 1/2 cup cherry preserves
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1/2 cup chopped red onion
- 1/4 chopped yellow bell pepper
- 1/4 chopped green bell pepper
- 1tablespoons finely chopped fresh thyme (or 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme)

Combine dried cherries, preserves and vinegar in a small microwave-safe bowl; mix well. Microwave on High (100% power) 1 to 1-1/2 minutes, or until hot. Let stand 5 minutes.

Stir in red onion, yellow and green bell pepper and thyme; mix well. Refrigerate, covered, 3 to 4 hours or overnight. Serve as a sauce with roast turkey or chicken. This relish is also good with grilled hamburgers.

Makes about 1-1/2 cups.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Cherry Cinnamon Rolls

These are wonderful for a holiday breakfast or brunch.

- 1 (10-ounce) jar red or green maraschino cherries
- 1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 (8-ounce) package crescent rolls
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted

Drain maraschino cherries; discard juice or save for another use. Chop cherries, then drain on paper towels. Combine brown sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Unroll crescent rolls; divide into triangles. Brush with butter. Sprinkle each triangle with about 1-1/2 teaspoons cinnamon-sugar mixture; top with 1 tablespoon cherries. Roll up dough toward pointed end of triangle. Place on lightly greased baking sheet. Brush with butter and sprinkle with remaining cinnamon-sugar mixture.

Bake in a 375-degree oven 12 to 15 minutes, or until golden brown.

Serve warm. Makes 8 servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Christmas Bread

Maraschino cherries, bananas and macadamia nuts are a perfect trio in this holiday quick bread.

- 1 (10-ounce) jar maraschino cherries
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 2/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 2 eggs 1-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup mashed ripe bananas
- 1/2 cup chopped macadamia nuts or walnuts

Drain maraschino cherries, reserving 2 tablespoons juice. Coarsely chop cherries; set aside. Put butter, brown sugar, eggs and reserved cherry juice in a large mixing bowl. Mix with an electric mixer on medium speed 3 to 4 minutes, or until well mixed. Combine flour, baking powder and salt; add to butter mixture alternately with mashed bananas, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Stir in cherries and nuts. Lightly spray a 9x5x3-inch baking pan with non-stick cooking spray. Spread batter evenly in pan. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 1 hour, or until golden brown and wooden pick inserted near center comes out clean. Remove from pan; let cool on wire rack. Wrap in plastic wrap or store in a tightly covered container.

Makes 1 loaf, about 16 slices.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Double Cherry Pie

The holidays would not be complete without at least one cherry pie.

- 4 cups frozen unsweetened tart cherries
- 1 cup dried tart cherries
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca or cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- Pastry for 2-crust, 9-inch pie
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon butter

Combine frozen cherries, dried cherries, granulated sugar, tapioca and almond extract in a large mixing bowl; mix well. (It is not necessary to thaw cherries before using.) Let cherry mixture stand 15 minutes. Line a 9-inch pie plate with pastry; fill with cherry mixture. Sprinkle with nutmeg. Dot with butter. Make a lattice top out of the remaining pastry. Seal and flute edge. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven about 1 hour, or until crust is golden brown and filling is bubbly. If necessary, cover edge of crust with aluminum foil to prevent overbrowning.

Makes 8 servings.

Note: 2 (16-ounce) cans unsweetened tart cherries, well drained, can be substituted for frozen tart cherries. Dried cherries are available at selected supermarkets and gourmet and specialty food stores.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Ho Ho Surprises

Delight family and friends with these tasty cookies.

- 48 red or green maraschino cherries (about one 16-ounce jar)
- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1/3 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 2-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans
- Confectioners' sugar

Drain maraschino cherries thoroughly on paper towels; set aside. Put butter and 1/3 cup confectioners' sugar in a large mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed 3 to 4 minutes, or until well mixed. Stir in almond extract. Add flour and salt; mix well. Stir in pecans.

Shape about 2 teaspoons dough around each cherry. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet about 1 inch apart. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven 12 to 15 minutes, or until set but not brown. Roll in confectioners' sugar while still warm. Let cool. If desired, roll in confectioners' sugar again.

Makes 4 dozen.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Ribbon of Cherry Cheesecake

Swirls of cherry make this cheesecake better than "visions of sugarplums."

- 1 cup sliced almonds
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1 (21-ounce) can cherry filling and topping
- 3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons granulated sugar, divided
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 4 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 3 tablespoons amaretto liqueur
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten

Toast almonds in a skillet over medium heat. Remove from heat; finely chop almonds. Combine almonds, graham cracker crumbs and butter in a medium bowl; mix well. Press crumb mixture evenly over the bottom and 2 inches up the sides of a 10-inch springform pan. Set aside.

Purée cherry filling in an electric blender or food processor until smooth. Pour puréed cherry filling into a medium saucepan. Combine 2 tablespoons granulated sugar and cornstarch; stir into cherry filling. Cook, stirring constantly, over low heat until mixture is thick and bubbly. Stir in almond extract. Set aside to cool.

Put cream cheese, remaining 3/4 cup sugar, amaretto, lemon juice and vanilla in a large mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed 3 to 4 minutes, or until well mixed. Add eggs all at once; beat on low just until mixed.

To assemble the cheesecake, pour one-third of the cream cheese mixture into prepared crust. Top with about 1/3 cup cherry purée. Swirl cherry mixture into cream cheese mixture, using a knife or spatula. Repeat layers twice, ending with cherry purée. Reserve remaining purée.

Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 60 to 65 minutes, or until the center appears nearly set when gently shaken. Cool on a wire rack. Refrigerate until ready to serve. To serve, spoon a generous tablespoon of purée on serving plate. Place cheesecake wedge on top of the purée.

Makes 16 servings.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Danish Butter Cookies

These make a pretty addition to holiday cookie trays.

- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 21 red or green glacé (candied) cherries, cut in half

Put butter and sugar in a large mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed 3 to 4 minutes, or until well mixed. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after every addition. Add lemon juice and vanilla; mix well. Add flour; mix well. Using a pastry bag with a star tip, squeeze dough (1-1/2 inches in diameter) onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Place a glacé cherry half in center of each.

Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 12 to 15 minutes, or until light brown.

Makes 3-1/2 dozen.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Cherry Cheese Brownies

Cherries and cream cheese make these brownies festive.

- 1 (16-ounce) can dark sweet cherries
- 1 (15-ounce) brownie mix (8x8 pan size)
- 2 eggs, divided
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 (3-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup flaked coconut
- 1 teaspoon almond extract

Drain cherries; reserve 1/4 cup cherry juice. Put brownie mix in a large bowl. Add 1 egg, oil and reserved cherry juice; mix well. Gently stir in cherries. Set aside.

Put cream cheese and sugar in a medium mixing bowl. Beat with an electric mixer 3 to 4 minutes, or until well mixed. Add remaining egg; mix well. Stir in coconut and almond extract.

Lightly grease an 83832-inch baking pan. Spoon brownie mixture evenly into pan. Spoon cream cheese mixture over brownie mixture. Use a knife to swirl cream cheese mixture into brownie mixture.

Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven 35 to 40 minutes, or until wooden pick inserted near center comes out clean. Let cool. Cut into squares or bars.

Makes 9 squares; 18 bars.

Note: 1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts can be substituted for coconut.

Tart Cherry Health Report

Cherry Blossoms

Bake these breakfast rolls as a holiday treat for family or neighbors.

- 2/3 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 cup dried tart cherries, divided
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 1 (14- to 16-ounce) loaf frozen white bread dough, thawed
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

Combine confectioners' sugar and milk in a small mixing bowl; mix well. Pour mixture into a 9-inch deep-dish pie pan. Sprinkle 1/2 cup of the cherries and pecans evenly over sugar mixture.

On a lightly floured surface, roll bread dough into a 12x8-inch rectangle; brush with melted butter. Combine brown sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle over dough. Top with remaining 1/2 cup cherries. Roll up rectangle, jelly-roll style, starting from a long side; pinch to seal edges. Cut roll into 12 slices.

Place slices, cut-side down, on top of mixture in pan. Let rise, covered, in a warm place 30 minutes, or until nearly double. (Or, cover with waxed paper, then with plastic wrap. Refrigerate 2 to 24 hours. Before baking, let chilled rolls stand, covered, 20 minutes at room temperature.)

Bake, uncovered, in a preheated 375-degree oven 20 to 25 minutes for unchilled rolls and 25 to 30 minutes for chilled rolls, or until golden brown. If necessary, cover rolls with foil the last 10 minutes to prevent overbrowning. Let cool in pan 1 to 2 minutes. Invert onto a serving platter. Serve warm.

Makes 12 rolls.

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