

Master Gardener Series EASTER, 2008



Traditional Easter Menu

Eggs are supposedly symbolic of the tomb of Jesus and the new life that was held within. They have long been a tradition in both the USA, Russia and Greece as an Easter food. The Easter Bunny came to America with the German immigrants.

Source: www.dictionary.com.

Deviled Eggs
Roasted Asparagus
Potato Salad
Baked Ham
Polish Easter Bread (Bobka)
Lemon Trifle

BOBKA

Ingredients
4 cups flour
1(1/4ounce)package yeast
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup butter
1 1/4 cups milk, lukewarm
5 egg yolks, keep one separate
1 cup golden raisins
1 tablespoon lemon zest
1/4 cup finely sliced almonds

Measure 2 cups flour onto piece of waxed paper; combine other 2 cups flour, yeast, sugar, salt and cinnamon in mixing bowl and mix well. Melt butter and add lukewarm milk. Gradually add dry ingredients and beat at low speed, scraping sides of bowl, 2 minutes.

Add 4 egg yolks and 1 more cup of flour.

Beat at medium speed 2 minutes or until thick and elastic.

Gradually stir in last cup of flour with wooden spoon, making a soft dough. Cover and let rise until double. Stir in raisins and lemon zest.

Put in a well-greased 3 quart fluted tube pan or heavy Bundt pan. Beat 5th egg yolk with 2 tablespoons water and brush top of dough with this mix. Sprinkle almonds over the top and let rise for one hour uncovered.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and bake for 30-40 minutes. Turn out of pan and cool on rack.

EASTER LILIES

Lilies for 2008 were placed in greenhouses around December 14 and held at 62 degrees for 14 weeks to force emergence. Additional lighting is provided at night as soon as the shoots emerge, normally from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. This is called "insurance lighting" in the greenhouse industry. As the plants progress, fungicides and fertilizer are applied as needed as well

as treatment for aphids. Plants are thinned to avoid overcrowding when they are around 6 inches tall. Just before they are taken to the market, if the buds have turned whitish and appear about to bloom, the temperature in the greenhouse is cooled to around 42 degrees to preserve the buds until ready for market.

Spring Gardening Gift Ideas

Watering can with gardening tools
Lilies
Fruit Trees
Bird Houses
Bird Feeders
Bird Bath

PASSOVER

This year, Passover begins on April 20 and ends on April 26, 2008. The traditional Passover meal is called a Seder, and always includes lamb, bitter herbs, and unleavened bread to remind the Jewish people of their captivity in Egypt and Exodus.

Traditional Passover Menu

Cold Asparagus Salad
Cooked cabbage
Dill-Flavored Matzo Ball Soup
Lamb Chops with Mint Sauce
Honey-Herbed Cornish Hens