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VAS Rich Fruit Cake

Open to fruit cake enthusiasts everywhere

Recipe

Ingredients

- 250g sultanas
- 250g chopped raisins
- 250g currants
- 125g chopped mixed peel
- 90g chopped red glace cherries
- 90g chopped blanched almonds
- 1/3 cup sherry or brandy
- 250g plain flour
- 60g self-raising flour
- 1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 250g butter
- 250g soft brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon essence OR finely grated lemon rind
- 1/2 teaspoon almond essence
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 4 large eggs

Method

Mix together all the fruits and nuts and sprinkle with the sherry or brandy. Cover and leave for at least 1 hour, but preferably overnight

Sift together the flours and spices. Cream together the butter and sugar with the essences. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition, and then alternately add the fruit and flour mixtures. Mix thoroughly. The mixture should be stiff enough to support a wooden spoon

Place the mixture into a prepared tin **20 cm square, straight sided, square cornered tin** and bake in a slow oven for approximately 3½ - 4 hours. Allow the cake to cool in the tin

Hot Tip

To ensure uniformity and depending upon the size, it is suggested the raisins be snipped into 2 or 3 pieces, cherries into 4 or 6 pieces and almonds crosswise into 3 or 4 pieces