

Make chocolate pudding “dirt cups”

Ingredients

- 3 or 4 serving cups
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 4 cups milk
- 2 tablespoons salted butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 9-ounce package chocolate wafer cookies
- Several fresh mint sprigs
- Assorted gummy worms (optional)



WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using the stove.

Instructions

1. Set out the serving cups you plan to use.
2. In a large saucepan, combine the sugar, cocoa, cornstarch, and salt and whisk together. Add the milk, gently whisking it in. Place the saucepan over medium-high heat and continue to whisk until the mixture begins to boil, about 5 minutes.
3. Remove the pan from the heat and add the butter and vanilla and peppermint extracts. Stir until the butter melts. Add the chocolate chips, stirring them in. They should partially melt. Spoon the warm pudding into the individual serving cups, then refrigerate until set, about 2 to 3 hours.
4. To decorate, place the chocolate wafer cookies in a large resealable plastic bag. Crumble them by breaking them up with a rolling pin or crushing them with your hands. Sprinkle the crumbs over the top of each pudding cup so they look like dirt. Rinse the fresh mint with cold water and very gently pat it dry with a clean towel. Then take a sprig of fresh mint and plant it in the cookie “dirt.” Add a few gummy worms poking out of the dirt, if you like.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Earthworms, which tend to grow to a few inches in length, can live for up to six years.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK SEE THE BENEFITS OF SPIDERS

It's common for people to feel afraid if they see a spider. But the presence of a spider in your home or your yard is actually a healthy sign. Spiders and the webs they spin can make your surroundings safer because they catch insects like mosquitoes. Contrary to popular belief, it's very rare for a spider to bite a human. Mosquitoes frequently bite humans, however, and cause painful itching. They can also carry diseases. So next time you spot a spider, one option is to let it stay where it is. Or, if it's indoors and you'd rather not see it, you could catch it using a cup and a piece of paper and release it outdoors.

Gently catch and release insects.

