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Baking Mix

Makes about 6.5 cups

- 5 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 cup shortening

DOUBLE STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

Ingredients:

Makes 8 dessert biscuits

SWEET STRAWBERRY BISCUITS:

3 cups homemade baking mix

1/3 cup sugar

- 1 tablespoon lemon zest
- 1 pint (1 cup, chopped) strawberries
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 4 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted

BEDAZZLED STRAWBERRY TOPPING:

- 1 quart fresh strawberries, hulled and sliced
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 3/4 cup whipping cream
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup confectioner's sugar

Directions for Sweet Strawberry Biscuits:

- 1. PREP INGREDIENTS by washing, hulling, and rough chopping one pint of strawberries, or one cup chopped. (RESERVE the other quart of strawberries for the top.) MELT the butter.
- 2. PREHEAT the oven to 375°F. Line a baking sheet with a silicone baking mat or piece of parchment paper.
- 3. PLACE THE BAKING MIX, SUGAR, and ZEST in a large mixing bowl. Whisk together until the ingredients are evenly distributed. ADD the chopped strawberries and stir gently to distribute.
- STIR TOGETHER in a glass measuring cup, the milk, cream, and vanilla extract.
- 5. ADD the milk to the flour mixture and stir a couple of times until barely combined. POUR in the melted butter and continue to fold in until combined. Do not over mix. It will be a coarse dough, and rather sticky.

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- 6. DROP spoonfuls of dough onto the prepared baking sheet in 8 equal portions.
- 7. BAKE FOR 18-20 minutes, or until baked through and the top and edges begin to turn golden brown.
- 8. COOL on the pan for five minutes, then transfer to a cooling rack.

Directions for Bedazzled Strawberry Topping:

- 1. PREPARE THE "bedazzled strawberries" while the biscuits are baking by washing, hulling and slicing a quart of berries.
- 2. JUICE THE LEMON (previously zested for the biscuits) placing the juice is a small bowl. ADD the honey and whisk until the honey is dissolved.
- 3. POUR the honey-sweetened lemon juice over the sliced strawberries and toss to evenly coat the berries. Let stand and marinate while the biscuits bake.
- 4. COMBINE the whipping cream, vanilla extract, and powdered sugar together. STIR until the sugar is dissolved, then WHIP the sweetened cream to soft peaks. Refrigerate until ready to assemble.