



KITCHEN WISDOM

To cut back on tears from chopping onions, chill onions first and cut into the root ends last.



WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using a knife, stove, or oven.

Ladle up a bowl of toasty French onion soup

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 yellow onions, halved and thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon sherry vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 6 cups beef broth
- 6 sprigs fresh thyme, leaves stripped from stems
- 1 cup shredded Gruyère cheese
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 4 slices French bread (about ½-inch thick)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Instructions

1. Melt the butter in a large pot over medium heat. Add the olive oil and onions and cook, stirring often, until the onions are golden brown and very soft, about 25 minutes.
2. Increase heat to medium-high and add the sherry vinegar. Using a long-handled spoon, scrape up any bits from the bottom of the pot.
3. Add the Worcestershire sauce, beef broth, and thyme leaves and bring mixture to a boil. Reduce heat once again and simmer, covered, for 15 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, preheat the broiler and combine the cheeses in a small bowl. Toast the bread.
5. Season the soup to taste with salt and pepper, then ladle into four oven-proof bowls or crocks set on a baking sheet.
6. Float a piece of toast on each bowl then top with a portion of the Gruyère and Parmesan cheese mix.
7. Broil until the cheese is melted and bubbly, 1 to 2 minutes. Serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

PLANT OR CARE FOR A TREE IN YOUR AREA

National Arbor Day is an observance that celebrates the role of trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care. Trees help clean our air, provide food and shelter for wildlife, reduce flooding, and serve as natural wind and sound barriers. You can celebrate trees in several ways. One is to talk to your family about planting a tree. You can visit a local nursery to ask about tree species and the best time to plant a seedling (young tree). Your local government's parks or public works department may have a tree restoration program and will plant a tree in front of your home for free if you ask. You can also "adopt" a tree in your area and, with an adult's help, care for it by clearing away litter and weeds.



National Arbor Day is April 24.