



Cinnamon Rolls

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2 packages yeast, (1/2-oz or 2 scant tbs)
 1/2 c hot water
 1 tbs sugar
 1/2 c butter
 3/4 c milk (warmed)
 1/2 c sugar
 1 egg
 1 tsp salt
 4 1/2 c flour

Dough topping:
 1/2 c butter
 1 1/4 c brown sugar
 1/4 c granular sugar
 2 tbs cinnamon

Frosting:
 1 lb powdered sugar
 2 to 3 tbs milk
 2 drops butter flavor extract

Dissolve 2 packages of yeast in 1/2 cup of hot water (test on wrist to make sure water is not too hot) and 1 tablespoon of sugar. Let sit. Melt the 1/2 cup of butter and combine with 3/4 cups of warm milk (can be warmed on stove or in microwave, test on wrist to make sure milk is not too hot). Using an electric mixer with a dough hook or a food processor with dough blade, mix dissolved yeast and butter/milk mixture on low. Slowly add 1/2 cup of sugar, then 1 egg. Add salt and 2 cups of flour on low, blend until smooth. Slowly add 1/2 cup at a time, the other 2 to 2 1/2 cups of flour. Put dough onto floured counter top. Knead dough until it doesn't stick to your hands (don't over kneed or add too much flour). Place in a greased bowl. Cover with damp cloth and let rise for 45 minutes to 1 hour, until it doubles in size. (Tip, let it rise in oven where the air and temperature is consistent). Remove from bowl and place on a floured counter. Roll out in a 12 by 24-inch (approximately) rectangle, not too thin. Spread 1/2 cup butter over dough, sprinkle with 1 1/4 cups of brown sugar (evenly), sprinkle with 1/4 cup of granular sugar (evenly), and sprinkle 2 tablespoons (or as much as you desire) of cinnamon (evenly). Roll dough into a log. Cut into thumb-width slices or 1 1/2-inch widths. Place in round cake pan or foil pan. Put back in oven to rise to desired height. Remove from oven after they have risen. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Only bake on one rack, center of oven (4 pans fit nicely). Set timer for 15 minutes, then watch for desired brownness. Remove from oven - let cool.

FROSTING: Combine 1 pound of powdered sugar, 2 to 3 tablespoons of milk (this may vary, add or subtract to your desired consistency), and 2 drops of butter flavor extract. Stir with spoon until very smooth and drizzles easily. Drizzle onto completely cooled cinnamon rolls. Let frosting harden. Serve.



From the Broker's Desk Nancy C. Rowe

With the flooding that has occurred in our region over the last year, you may want to investigate the new FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) flood maps to verify if you might now be included in a flood zone classification.

NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) describes a flood as, "a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of two or more acres of normally dry land area or of two or more properties". Many different factors can contribute to flood conditions so don't assume your location is immune to flooding. The flood hazard maps show different degrees of risk within an area. The lower the degree of risk then the less the flood insurance premium will cost. NFIP offers flood insurance but policies have to be purchased through property and casualty insurance agents. Rates are set and do not differ from company to company. Coverage for buildings has a maximum of \$250,000 and for contents a maximum of \$100,000. Building coverage includes the building and foundation, electrical and plumbing systems, heat and air systems, water heaters, large or built-in appliances and permanently installed carpeting, paneling, wallboard, bookcases or cabinets. Contents coverage includes clothing, furniture, unattached carpeting/rugs, electronic equipment, window treatments, portable appliances, freezers and their contents, washer/dryers and artwork up to \$2500. Reimbursement methods for flood claims are: Replacement Cost Value (RCV) or Actual Cash Value (ACV). Contents are always valued using the ACV which is calculated as replacement cost at the time of loss minus depreciation. To qualify for Replacement Cost Value (RCV) the building must be a single family dwelling which you use at least 80% of the year and your amount of flood coverage must be at least 80% of the full replacement cost or the maximum of \$250,000. If you decide that flood insurance might be a good investment, don't wait until heavy rains are forecast because there is a thirty day waiting period before a new flood policy goes into effect. Should you experience flood damage, call your agent immediately with your policy information and contact information. With the high volume of claims filed during a flood, it may take some time for an adjuster to investigate your claim so document your losses with detailed descriptions and pictures and even cut swatches from damaged carpets and upholstered furniture. Anticipate the adjusters need for financial information by producing your purchase receipts or an estimated cost for each item being claimed and the age of that item. Call your insurance agent or check out the FEMA website to learn more about flood insurance and to determine your map classification. Remember that the experienced Agents of WILLOW Realty are always ready to assist with your real estate transactions.



Bird Friendly Landscaping Tips

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Create a highway for the birds: Create corridors for birds to travel through by connecting planting areas in your yard with planted areas in your neighbors' yards. Plant in masses instead of scattering single plants around the yard.

Mix it up: Plant vegetation in a variety of types and heights. This will be most like a natural habitat. Mix trees, large shrubs, small shrubs, perennials, and groundcovers throughout your yard.

Plant living fences: Use natural shrub borders instead of fences. The shrubs will be attractive landscape features and will provide food, shelter, and nesting areas for birds.

Let it Be: Try to resist the urge to clean up every little corner of your yard or garden. Leaving leaf litter gives birds a place to forage for insects. Leaving the dried seed heads on flower stalks provides food for the birds and, in many cases, allows plants to naturally re-seed for next year's crop. Leaving a few areas of your yard or garden to grow a little tall and wild provides welcomed food and shelter for your feathered friends.



A Prickly Situation: Consider including some plants with thorns or prickly leaves in your landscape. These thorny plants provide excellent nesting areas for birds. The thorns keep them safe from predators. Pyracantha (fire thorn) and holly are good examples, which also provide berries for food. Plant these near the edge of your property or in a less frequented area, to avoid getting scratched up yourself.



Evergreen Shelter: Evergreen trees and shrubs provide nesting for birds during the warm weather and protected roosting sites during the cold of winter. Evergreens come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and you should be able to find one or two suitable to any yard. Choose from firs, spruces, pines, junipers, hemlocks, and hollies.



Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. ~Marcel Proust

Mothers Day is May 12th

