

Solstice



The Winter Solstice is a unique day of the year. It has the longest night and the shortest day. People celebrate because after the winter solstice, the sun stays out longer.

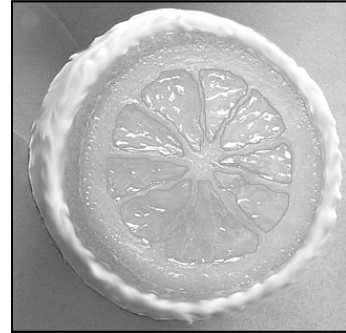
Winter Solstice Cupcakes

FOR THE CUPCAKES

1 1/2 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
3/4 cup sugar
2 large eggs

FOR THE FROSTING

2 packages (8-oz. each) cream cheese, softened
1/3 cup honey
2 teaspoons vanilla extract



1. Preheat oven to 350°. Line the cups of a 12-cup muffin tin with paper or foil liners. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt; set aside. In a measuring cup, mix milk and vanilla; set aside.
2. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy, three to four minutes. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. With mixer on low, add half of dry ingredients, followed by milk-vanilla mixture, then remaining dry ingredients. Do not over-mix.
3. Divide batter evenly among prepared muffin cups.
4. Place tin on a rimmed baking sheet; bake until a toothpick inserted in center of a cupcake comes out clean, 20 to 25 minutes. Cool cupcakes 5 minutes in tin, then remove and cool completely on a rack before frosting.
5. Beat cream cheese, honey, and vanilla until light and fluffy. Chill until stiff enough to spread.
6. Frost cupcakes; decorate with candy corn or yellow jelly beans in a circle before frosting dries to ensure that they stick. Or top with a thin slice of orange.

