KOSHER DILL PICKLES
SUBMITTED BY: MARY FITZPATRICK

Ingredients:

Kosher Dill Pickles

- Add a tannin-containing agent to your pickling jars. black tea, oak leaves, grape leaves, or horseradish leaves.

- Ferment at the coolest temperature you can achieve. A basement, cool garage, root cellar, or dark cool corner of your home should suffice. The refrigerator is too cool though.

- Try small whole cucumbers first. These little pickling cucumbers tend to retain their crunch better than a chopped-up larger cucumber.

- Ingredients

  - 5 tablespoons sea salt
  - 2 quarts of chlorine-free water
  - 4 to 6 grape, oak, or horseradish leaves
  - 6 to 9 cloves of peeled garlic
  - 2 large heads of dill
- Spices to taste: black peppercorns, red pepper flakes, mustard seeds, etc. (Secret ingredient: for an extra bite, add a few strips of fresh horseradish to the spice mix!)
- Enough pickling cucumbers to fill a half-gallon jar

**Instructions:**

**Directions**

1. Make a brine with 2 quarts of chlorine-free water and 5 tablespoons sea salt. Mix well, cover, and allow to cool to room temperature. This brine can be kept for days before using.

2. In a 1/2-gallon jar add a couple of the tannin-containing leaves, a few cloves of garlic, the heads of dill, and 1/3 of the spices you plan to use.

3. Pack half of your cucumbers tightly on top of these spices. (The longest ones work best at the bottom.) Repeat a layer of leaves, garlic, and spices. Add another tightly packed layer of cucumbers and top them off with more garlic and spices.

4. Pour the brine over the pickles, leaving 1 to 2 inches of headscape. Place another tannin-containing leaf on top of the pickles as a cover between the pickles and the surface of the brine.

5. Tightly cap the jar and place in a safe place at room temperature for 3 to 5 days. Alternatively, place in a root cellar or cool basement for up to two weeks.

6. You will know your pickles have fermented when the brine is cloudy, the brine is bubbling, and the pickles have a bubbly sourness to them. The warmer the fermenting temperature, the shorter the fermentation time, though a cooler fermentation temperature is desirable (less than 80°F).

7. Eat right away, or store in a refrigerator or root cellar for months and enjoy them all winter long.
Makes one 1/2-gallon jar of pickles.