

Reader Recipes

Broccoli Ramen Salad

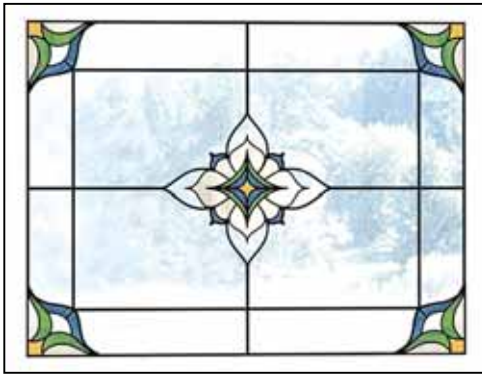
- 1 1/2 - 2 lbs. fresh broccoli, cut into florets
- 2 large red bell peppers, chopped
- 1/2 cup butter, divided
- 1 head lettuce, chopped
- 2 cups pecans, chopped
- 3 packages Ramen noodles, chicken flavored
- Dressing*
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups oil
- 2/3 cup red wine vinegar
- 3 packages seasoning from Ramen noodles

Add broccoli to a large mixing bowl (broccoli should fill half the bowl). Add lettuce and peppers. Toast pecans in 1/4 cup butter over low heat till golden, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle with salt while toasting. Cool. Toast Ramen noodles in remaining 1/4 cup butter until golden, stirring occasionally. Cool. Toss with salad. Mix dressing. Add to salad and toss.

Mandarin Crush Cake

- 1 15-oz. can mandarin oranges, undrained
- 1 15.25-oz. package yellow cake mix
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon orange extract
- Frosting*
- 1 3.4-oz. package vanilla pudding mix
- 2 8-oz. cans crushed pineapple, undrained
- 1 8-oz. container whipped topping
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350 F. Coat two 8-in. round baking pans with cooking spray. Reserve a few mandarin segments to decorate cake. In a large bowl, beat all cake ingredients at medium speed for about 3 mins. Pour batter evenly into cake pans. Bake 20-25 mins., until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. In another bowl, mix all frosting ingredients until smooth. Place in fridge to chill at least 1 hour. Once cakes are cooled, place one cake layer on a serving plate and spread half the frosting on top. Place the remaining layer on top and spread the remaining frosting over top and sides of the cake, then place reserved mandarin slices on top to decorate.



InHome Blue Alden Stained Glass Decal from Amazon.

Stained Glass Window Decals

Get the look of a beautiful stained glass window with these peel-and-stick sheets. The Blue Alden Stained Glass Decal contains five pieces on one sheet, measuring 9 in. by 7.7 in.

Customers report it adheres well to slider-style windows and does not hinder their functionality.

"I love stained glass but didn't want to pay \$200 for a tiny piece to put in a transom window above my door. It's really easy to peel off and adjust. It was super easy to install and took about 20 min.," says L. Taylor on Amazon.

It sticks well to clean windows without any backside adhesive. Many customers consider it an inexpensive way to add ornamentation to plain windows.

It has an average rating of 4.4 out of 5 stars and is available on Amazon for around \$10 per sheet.



Farmers use them to store everything from chemicals to equipment parts and to create work benches.

Get Organized With Crate System

At first glance, the patented UbeCube looks very similar to a milk crate. Entrepreneur Dominic Ismert, inventor and owner of UbeCube, calls it a "Swiss Army multi-crate."

"We took a milk-type crate and made it modular, collapsible, strong and stackable," he says. "It stacks vertically and horizontally and is connectable with accessories and attachments."

Ismert, who was an inventor for the plumbing trade, devised the idea as a solution for plumbers to store, transport and manage the many parts and tools they use. After tooling a few prototypes, his Missouri company settled on the current design, which is slightly bigger than a milk crate (13 1/2-in. cube exterior). It's made with food-safe polypropylene and has an I-beam-style top and bottom that supports up to 750 lbs.

"They're two times as thick as milk crates and much more robust," Ismert says, adding customers are surprised that they're collapsible, which comes in handy for shipping and compact storing.

Uses for the UbeCube have gone far beyond building parts cabinets and storing parts in vans for the plumbers market. The cubes can be stacked to create popup closets, mounted on ATVs and used as truck or farm equipment toolboxes. Farmers use them to store everything from chemicals to equipment parts and to make work benches. With trays and other accessories, the UbeCube adapts to many different uses. Hunters and fishermen store ammo and tackle. Collectors store vinyl albums. Families create shoe racks, toy chests and whatever else they need to keep the household organized.

"Our passion is to make the customer happy. The challenge is to create something for everyone," Ismert says.

UbeCube recently purchased a 100,000-sq. ft. shop with 14 injection-molding machines and is now manufacturing in Missouri.

"My goal is to mass produce the core crates as inexpensively as possible," Ismert adds. "We're getting a lot of traction in all the markets and are looking for dealers in agriculture."

The UbeCube is available in black, white and gray and costs \$30. The company's website offers discounts for multi-packs.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, UbeCube, 4429 E. 139th St., Grandview, Mo. 64030 (ph 816-775-2044; www.ubecube.com).



New Products For The Farm, Ranch Home

Keep Cut Flowers Longer Using Homemade Preservative

University of Missouri Extension State Specialist David Trinklein wants you to maximize the value of cut flowers. "Extending the life of flowers is a unique discipline known as postharvest physiology," he says. "With the right techniques, your bouquet can last up to twice as long."

The reason, he says, comes down to plant biology. "Plants are mainly water, and water doesn't store well. But picked flowers are still capable of respiring, which means taking up water and using sugars. Give them a food and hydration source, and they'll stay alive longer."

The wilting process starts when flowers lose more water than they take in. This happens thanks to air bubbles forming in the xylem tissue of stems, which block the water flow. Cutting stems temporarily removes these air bubbles and restores water flow. "Wholesale rose stems are recut underwater, then put directly into a vase," says Trinklein. "There's little if any outside air exposure."

Food is the other side of the equation. Most commercial bouquets come with flower preservative packets containing a proprietary blend of sugars, citric acid, and bactericides. But in a pinch, you can make your own. Trinklein suggests the following recipe:

- 1 pint lemon-lime soda (not diet)
- 1 pint water
- 1 tsp antiseptic mouthwash
- 1-2 drops dishwashing liquid

"The soda's citric acid lowers the pH, increasing acidity and slowing down bacteria growth," he says. "Its sugar content feeds the flowers." The mouthwash is a bactericide, mimicking the proprietary ingredients in commercial flower preservatives. "If you look in a florist shop, you'll notice they are squeaky clean. They do everything possible to avoid bacteria contamination since bacteria can also block water flow through a flower's stem."

Likewise, dishwashing liquid makes water slicker. Regular water adheres slightly to cell walls, but dish soap, a surfactant, reduces its stickiness, so plants are more efficient with uptake and translocation within the xylem tissue.

Trinklein states that his recipe can serve more as inspiration than a blueprint. "Many different ingredients can be used for this recipe, and it will maintain its effectiveness as long as the ingredients fulfill each function category," he says.

"For example, some people add an aspirin tablet to the water to deter the growth of bacteria. I've also heard of dropping in a copper penny, but that's an urban legend and unlikely to be effective. And while this recipe is great in a pinch, my honest recommendation is to go to the hobby store and buy a premade flower preservative. That's going to be just as effective as what florists use."

Regardless of your flower food source, Trinklein reiterates that frequently cutting stems is the most crucial step. "Cut the stems at a 45-degree angle, underwater if possible, and immediately transfer them to a vase," he says. "But the flower variety you choose will also affect their longevity. Certain garden flower species, such as sunflowers and zinnias, last longer to begin with. In fact, these tips might make them last a little too long. A lot of the fun of cut flowers is their novelty."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Trinklein (TrinkleinD@missouri.edu).



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