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# Pickling VEGETABLES



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## Contents

Preservation by pickling .....	1
Equipment .....	2
Ingredients .....	3
Packing the jars .....	4
Processing .....	5
Processing times in a boiling-water canner (table) .....	6
Storing .....	7
If using untested recipes .....	7
Recipes	
Dill pickles .....	8
Sauerkraut .....	9
Quick kosher dills .....	10
Quick sweet pickles .....	10
Reduced-sodium sliced sweet pickles .....	11
Bread-and-butter pickles .....	12
Sweet gherkin pickles .....	12
Pickled asparagus .....	13
Pickled dilled beans .....	14
Pickled three-bean salad .....	14
Pickled beets .....	15
Pickled hot peppers .....	16
Marinated whole mushrooms .....	16
Pickle relish .....	17

### Safety checklist

- Select tender vegetables without blemishes or mold.
- Use the amounts and types of ingredients specified in laboratory-tested recipes.
- Do **not** reduce the amount of vinegar or increase the amount of water in recipes.
- Follow instructions for conventional processing or use lower-temperature pasteurization.
- Do **not** process brined pickles before they taste tart.
- Look for signs of spoilage before using pickled products.

# Pickling vegetables

C.A. Raab



**P**ickling is one of the oldest methods of food preservation. The Chinese were fermenting vegetables as early as the third century B.C. By the first century A.D., Romans also were pickling. Pickled products appeared in America, too. The pickle barrel was common during the colonial days. Pickles even became part of our folklore as children learned to recite the “Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers” tongue-twister.

By the early 1920s, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) had published instructions on making pickles at home. Many of these procedures are still used today.

In 1988, USDA published new home-canning recommendations after doing extensive research. The information in this publication is based on USDA’s *Complete Guide to Home Canning*.

## Preservation by pickling

Microorganisms are always on vegetables. Home canning prevents the growth of those that cause spoilage and illness. When the acidity of a canned food is high, harmful bacteria such as *Clostridium botulinum* can’t grow. That’s why pickling (adding acid) prevents spoilage.

There are two types of pickles:

- **Brined** (fermented) pickles require several weeks of “curing” at room temperature. During this period, colors and flavors change. Acid is produced as lactic acid bacteria grow.
- **Quick** (unfermented) pickles are made in 1 or 2 days by adding acid in the form of vinegar. It’s critical to add enough vinegar to prevent bacterial growth (see “Vinegar,” page 3).

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# Equipment

## Equipment for fermenting

**Crock** A 1-gallon container is needed for each 5 pounds of fresh vegetables. Therefore, a 5-gallon stone crock is an ideal size for fermenting about 25 pounds of fresh cabbage or cucumbers. Select a crock that is made for food use. Food-grade plastic and glass containers are excellent substitutes.

*Caution: It's not safe to use garbage cans or other containers that are not made to come into contact with food for humans.*

Sauerkraut may be fermented in quart or half-gallon jars, but spoilage may be greater in these smaller containers.

**Weight** A weight keeps fermenting food under the brine. When using a crock, select a dinner plate or glass pie plate that is slightly smaller than the container opening. Weigh it down with 2 or 3 quart jars (closed with lids) filled with water.

Or, use a large food-grade plastic bag (either heavy weight or double-bagged) filled with brine (1½ tablespoons salt per 1 quart water). Be sure to close the bag before placing it in the fermentation container. Using brine prevents dilution in case the bag leaks.

## Other equipment

**Utensils** Don't use zinc, copper, brass, galvanized metal, or iron utensils. These metals may react with acid or salt and affect the quality (color changes) and safety of pickles.

**Jars** Jars designed for home canning are the best choice. However, some commercial jars (such as mayonnaise) may be used in the boiling water canner if you use new two-piece lids. Be sure the commercial jars' dimensions are similar to those of standard jars and that screw bands fit snugly. Discard screw bands that are dented or rusty.

**Lids** Choose the size of lid that fits your jars (wide-mouth or regular). To prevent sealing failures, don't reuse lids. Check manufacturer's directions for heating lids before use.

**Boiling-water canner** These canners, made of aluminum or porcelain-covered steel, have removable baskets and fitted lids. Any large container may be used if it has room for at least 1 inch of briskly boiling water over the tops of jars during processing. Place a metal rack in the bottom of the container to keep the jars from resting directly on the bottom which can cause breakage.

**Thermometer** Use an instant-read thermometer or a candy, jelly, or dial thermometer that registers in the 120° to 185°F range.

# Ingredients

## Vegetables

Select tender vegetables without blemishes or mold. Wash thoroughly in cold water. When you select cucumbers, keep the following points in mind.

- Use varieties grown especially for pickling.
- Avoid commercially waxed cucumbers. Pickling liquid cannot penetrate the wax easily.
- Pick cucumbers early in the morning and use within 24 hours for best quality.
- Select cucumbers of similar size: 1½ inches long for gherkins, 4 inches for dills. Use oddly shaped and more mature ones for relishes and bread-and-butter style pickles.
- Remove the blossom ends, which may contain enzymes that soften the pickles.

## Salt

- **Pickling and canning salts** are the best choices.
- **Table salt** may be used, but the additive that keeps it free-flowing may make the brine cloudy.
- **Reduced-sodium salts** (such as potassium chloride) may be used in quick pickle recipes. However, the pickles may have a slightly different taste. *Don't use reduced-sodium salt in brined pickles or sauerkraut*—these products need a specific amount of sodium to control bacterial growth and to give a firm texture.

Don't use flake salt or kosher salt (which vary in density) or rock salt or sea salt (which have impurities).

## Vinegar

Vinegar is the most important ingredient in quick-pickle recipes. Without an adequate amount, the pickles won't be safe to eat. Use any vinegar with 5 percent acidity.

*Caution: Don't reduce the amount of vinegar or increase the amount of water in a recipe. For a less sour taste, add a small amount of sugar.*

- **White distilled vinegar** has a pungent taste. Use it when pickling light-color foods such as cauliflower and onions.
- **Cider vinegar** has a milder flavor.

Don't use homemade vinegar; it varies in acidity.

## Flavorings

Spices should be fresh. Whole spices are best. Powdered spices may cause the pickles to darken and become cloudy.

- **Dill** may be fresh, seeds, or oil. The flavor of dill seeds may not be as good as the fresh dill (1 teaspoon seeds equals 1 dill head). To use dill oil, substitute one drop for each head of dill. Fresh dill freezes well.
- **Garlic** should be fresh and at the peak of maturity.
- **Sugar** may be either white or brown. Brown sugar may give a darker color to the brine. Corn syrup and honey may give an undesirable flavor.

## Water

- **Soft water** makes the best brine for pickles.
- **Hard water** may cause cloudiness and off-colors. If only hard water is available, boil and let sit for 24 hours. Skim off scum and use water from the top of the container without disturbing any sediment.

## Firming ingredients

- **Alum** may be used to firm fermented cucumbers. However, it's not necessary and isn't included in this publication. Alum doesn't improve the firmness of quick pickles.
- **Calcium chloride** also improves pickle firmness. It often is sold where you buy canning supplies.
- **Lime** also contains calcium. Cucumber slices sometimes are soaked in a lime-and-water solution for 12 to 24 hours before pickling. For instructions, see "Variation for firmer pickles," page 11. Be sure to remove excess lime by rinsing and soaking the cucumbers as instructed.

*Caution: Don't use lime sold at garden centers or lumberyards. Food-grade lime may be available at Hispanic markets or on the Internet.*

## Packing the jars

1. Follow manufacturer's directions for preheating lids.
2. Prepare ingredients.
3. Follow instructions for packing hot (preheating vegetables in brine) or raw.
4. Pack food and liquid to within ½ inch from the top of the jar unless otherwise specified. If the jars are too full, some contents could siphon out of the jar during heat processing and prevent sealing by sticking to the rim. All air may not be exhausted during processing if headspace is too large.
5. Run a plastic spatula around the inside of the jar to remove air bubbles.
6. Wipe jar rims and threads with a clean, damp cloth to remove any bits of food that might prevent a seal. Adjust lids.

## Processing

Pickles are processed to stop fermentation and the growth of bacteria that cause spoilage. *Caution: It's extremely important to wait until fermented pickles taste tart before processing.*

Use either conventional boiling-water canner processing or lower temperature pasteurization.

### Conventional boiling-water canner processing

1. Arrange the jars on the rack of a canner half filled with very hot water (140°F for raw-packed foods, 180° for hot-packed foods). Add more very hot water, if needed, to bring the water level up to 1 inch above jar tops. Place a tight-fitting cover on canner.
2. When the water boils, set a timer for the recommended time (see Table 1, page 6). Increase processing times for higher altitudes, as directed, to make up for the lower boiling point of water. Keep water boiling gently and steadily. Add boiling water if necessary to keep jars covered.
3. Immediately remove jars from canner at the end of processing. Spoilage could occur if jars are left in hot water.
4. Put jars on a rack or cloth so air can move freely around them. There should not be a cold draft or fan blowing on the jars.

### Pasteurization at lower temperatures

Processing at temperatures lower than the boiling point of water may result in a better quality product. Follow directions carefully to avoid possible spoilage.

1. Place jars in a canner half filled with warm water (120° to 140°F). Add hot water to a level of 1 inch above jars.
2. Heat the water to 180° to 185°F and start a timer. Process for 30 minutes, checking with a candy or jelly thermometer to be certain that the water temperature stays at least 180° (temperatures higher than 185° may soften pickles).
3. Immediately remove jars from the canner at the end of processing time.
4. Put jars on a rack or cloth so air can move freely around them.

**Table 1.—Processing times in a boiling-water canner.**

Product	Style of pack	Jar size	Process time (minutes) at altitudes of			
			1,000 ft or less	1,001 – 3,000 ft	3,001 – 6,000 ft	Above 6,000 ft
<b>Brined (fermented) pickles</b>						
Dill pickles	Raw	Pints	10	15	15	20
		Quarts	15	20	20	25
Sauerkraut	Hot	Pints	10	15	15	20
		Quarts	15	20	20	25
	Raw	Pints	20	25	30	35
		Quarts	25	30	35	40
<b>Quick (unfermented) pickles</b>						
Quick kosher dills	Raw	Pints	10	15	15	20
		Quarts	15	20	20	25
Quick sweet pickles	Hot	Pints or quarts	5	10	10	15
	Raw	Pints	10	15	15	20
		Quarts	15	20	20	25
Reduced-sodium sweet pickles	Hot	Pints	10	15	15	20
Bread-and-butter pickles	Hot	Pints or quarts	10	15	15	20
Sweet gherkin pickles	Raw	Pints	5	10	10	15
Pickled asparagus	Raw	Pints or quarts	10	15	15	20
Pickled dilled beans	Raw	Pints	5	10	10	15
Pickled three-bean salad	Hot	Half-pints or pints	15	20	20	25
Pickled beets	Hot	Pints or quarts	30	35	40	45
Pickled hot peppers	Raw	Half-pints or pints	10	15	15	20
Marinated mushrooms	Hot	Half-pints	20	25	30	35
Pickle relish	Hot	Half-pints or pints	10	15	15	20

## Testing the seals

Test each jar within 12 to 24 hours. Jars with flat, metal lids are sealed if:

- The lid has popped down in the center and doesn't move farther down when you press on it.
- The center of the lid gives a clear, ringing sound when you tap it with a spoon. (This isn't as reliable as the other method.)

Jars that have not sealed can be either refrigerated or reprocessed. To reprocess, start by removing the lid. Check and clean the sealing surface (the rim) of the jar. Use a new lid and process again for the full time. The quality of the pickled food won't be as good after reprocessing.

## Storing

Wipe the jars and label them with the date and contents. Remove screw bands so that the liquid under them won't cause rusting.

Store jars in a cool, dark, dry place.

Use within 1 year for best eating quality and nutritive value. Exposure to heat, freezing, or light decreases the quality and shelf life of canned food.

## Before using

Before opening each jar, look for signs of spoilage: bulging lids, leaks, and any unusual appearance of the pickled food. When opening, check for off-odor, mold, slimy or soft texture, foam, or spurting liquid.

*Caution: Never taste questionable foods.*

If there is any sign of spoilage, destroy the pickled food. To destroy spoiled pickled food, either put it down the garbage disposal or boil for 10 minutes and discard in the garbage.

## Untested recipes

If you wish to use a recipe that hasn't been tested for safety in a laboratory, keep these pointers in mind.

- Make sure that the recipe calls for vinegar that is 5 percent acidity.
- Quick-pickle recipes must have at least as much vinegar as water to be safe.
- If lime is included, the recipes must have a rinsing step.
- Brined pickles or sauerkraut recipes must include salt.
- Processing instructions must be correct. Quick pickles can be processed as soon as they are made. Fermented pickles must not be processed until they have a sour taste.

## Recipes

Most of these recipes for brined and quick pickles are from the USDA's *Complete Guide to Home Canning*. For additional laboratory-tested recipes, contact the Extension office that serves your county. *If you wish to use untested recipes, see the pointers on page 7.*

Write the recommended conventional processing time for your altitude (Table 1, page 6) in the boxes provided.

### Brined (fermented) foods

Cabbage and cucumbers must be kept 1 to 2 inches under the brine while fermenting. (See "Equipment for fermenting," page 2.) After weighing down, cover the container opening with a clean, heavy bath towel to prevent contamination from insects and molds during fermentation.

### Dill pickles

Use the following quantities for each gallon of your container's capacity.

- 4 lb pickling cucumbers (4-inch)
- 2 Tbsp dill seed or 4 to 5 heads fresh or dry dill weed
- 2 cloves garlic (optional)
- 2 dried red peppers (optional)
- 2 tsp whole mixed pickling spices (optional)
- ½ cup salt
- ¼ cup vinegar (5%)
- 8 cups water

#### My processing time

Pints \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

Quarts \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

**Procedure** Wash cucumbers. Cut a 1/16-inch slice off blossom end, but leave ¼ inch of stem at the other end. Place half of dill and half of other flavorings on bottom of a clean, suitable container (see page 2). Add cucumbers, remaining dill, and flavorings. Dissolve salt in vinegar and water and pour over cucumbers. Add suitable weight and cover.

Store where temperature is 70° to 75°F for about 3 to 4 weeks. Temperatures of 55° to 65°F are acceptable, but the fermentation will take 5 to 6 weeks. Pickles will become too soft if temperatures are above 80°F during fermentation.

Check the container several times a week and promptly remove surface scum or mold.

*Caution: If the pickles become soft or slimy, or if they develop a disagreeable odor, discard them.*

Fully fermented pickles may be stored in the original container for 4 to 6 months, provided you refrigerate them and remove surface scum and molds regularly.

Canning is a better way to store fully fermented pickles. To can them, pour the brine into a pan, heat slowly to a boil, and simmer 5 minutes. Filter brine

through paper coffee filters to reduce cloudiness, if desired. Fill pint or quart jars with pickles and hot brine, leaving ½-inch headspace.

Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

## Sauerkraut

*Use the following quantities for each gallon capacity of your container:*

5 lb cabbage  
3 Tbsp canning or pickling salt

**Quality** For the best sauerkraut, use firm heads of fresh cabbage. Start kraut within 24 to 48 hours after harvest.

**Yield** About 2 to 3 quarts

**Procedure** Work with about 5 pounds of cabbage at a time. Discard outer leaves. Rinse heads under cold running water and drain. Cut heads in half and remove cores. Shred or slice to the thickness of a quarter. Put shredded cabbage into an extra-large bowl or food-safe tub and add salt.

Mix in salt thoroughly, using clean hands, until juices are drawn from cabbage and salt is dissolved. Pack firmly into a suitable fermenting container (see page 2). Repeat shredding, salting, and packing with additional cabbage, if desired. Be sure that the container is deep enough so that its rim is at least 4 or 5 inches above the cabbage.

If juice doesn't cover cabbage, add boiled and cooled brine (1½ tablespoons of salt per quart of water). Add plate and weights; cover container with a clean bath towel. Store at 70° to 75°F while fermenting. At temperatures between 70° and 75°F, kraut will be fully fermented in 3 to 4 weeks; at 60°F, fermentation may take 5 to 6 weeks.

At temperatures lower than 60°, kraut may not ferment. Above 75°, kraut may become soft. If you weigh the cabbage down with a brine-filled bag, do not disturb the crock until normal fermentation is complete (when bubbling ceases).

If you use a plate and jars as weight, check the kraut two to three times each week and remove scum if it forms. Fully fermented kraut may be kept tightly covered in the refrigerator for several months, or freeze or can it. If canning:

- **Hot pack** Bring kraut and liquid slowly to a boil in a large kettle, stirring frequently. Remove from heat and fill pint or quart jars rather firmly with kraut and juices, leaving ½-inch headspace.
- **Raw pack** Fill pint or quart jars firmly with kraut and cover with juices, leaving ½-inch headspace.

Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

My processing time		
	Hot pack	Raw pack
Pints	___ minutes	___ minutes
Quarts	___ minutes	___ minutes

## Quick (unfermented) foods

*Caution: It's not safe to reduce the amount of vinegar in recipes. If the flavor is too tart, add a little sugar.*

### Quick kosher dills

4 lb pickling cucumbers (4-inch)  
 14 garlic cloves, split  
 ¼ cup pickling salt  
 2¾ cups vinegar (5%)  
 3 cups water  
 14 heads fresh dill  
 28 peppercorns  
 2 tsp hot red pepper flakes (optional)

My processing time	
Pints	_____ minutes
Quarts	_____ minutes

**Yield** 6 to 7 pints or 3 to 4 quarts

**Procedure** Wash cucumbers. Cut a ¼-inch slice off blossom end, but leave ¼ inch of stem on the other end. Cut in half lengthwise. Heat salt, vinegar, and water to boiling. Pack cucumbers into pint or quart jars, adding 4 garlic halves, 2 heads dill, and 4 peppercorns. Add ¼ teaspoon hot red pepper flakes per pint, if desired.

Pour hot vinegar solution over cucumbers to within ½ inch of top. Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

### Quick sweet pickles

4 lb pickling cucumbers  
 (3- to 4-inch)  
 ½ cup canning or pickling salt  
 4½ cups sugar  
 3½ cups vinegar (5%)  
 2 tsp celery seed  
 1 Tbsp whole allspice  
 2 Tbsp mustard seed

My processing time		
	<i>Hot pack</i>	<i>Raw pack</i>
Pints	_____ minutes	_____ minutes
Quarts	_____ minutes	_____ minutes

**Yield** 7 to 9 pints

**Procedure** Wash cucumbers. Cut ¼ inch off blossom end, but leave ¼ inch of stem at other end. Slice or cut in strips. Place in bowl and sprinkle with ½ cup salt. Cover with 2 inches of crushed or cubed ice. Refrigerate 3 to 4 hours, adding more ice as needed. Drain well. Combine sugar, vinegar, celery seed, allspice, and mustard seed in 6-quart kettle. Heat to boiling.

**Hot pack** Add cucumbers and heat slowly until vinegar solution returns to boil. Stir occasionally to make sure mixture heats evenly. Fill pint or quart jars, leaving ½-inch headspace.

**Raw pack** Fill pint or quart jars, leaving ½-inch headspace.

Add hot pickling syrup, leaving ½-inch headspace. Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

**Variation: firmer pickles** Wash cucumbers. Cut ⅛ inch off blossom end, but leave ¼ inch of stem attached. Slice or cut in strips. Mix 1 cup pickling lime and ½ cup salt to 1 gallon water in a 2- to 3-gallon crock or enamelware container.

*Caution: Avoid inhaling lime dust while mixing the lime-and-water solution.*

Soak cucumber slices or strips in lime water solution for 12 to 24 hours, stirring occasionally. Remove from lime solution and rinse and resoak 1 hour in fresh cold water. Repeat the rinsing and resoaking two more times in fresh water. Handle carefully—slices or strips will be brittle. Drain well.

**Variation: onions** Add 2 slices of raw onion to each jar before filling with cucumbers.

**Storage** After processing and cooling, store jars 4 to 5 weeks to develop ideal flavor.

## Reduced-sodium sliced sweet pickles

3 lb pickling cucumbers (3- to 4-inch)

### Canning syrup

1½ cups distilled white vinegar (5%)

3 cups sugar

1 Tbsp whole allspice

2¼ tsp celery seed

### Brining solution

1 quart distilled white vinegar (5%)

1 Tbsp canning or pickling salt

1 Tbsp mustard seed

½ cup sugar

**Yield** 4 to 5 pints

**Procedure** Wash cucumbers and cut ⅛ inch off blossom end and discard. Cut cucumbers into ¼-inch slices. Combine all ingredients for canning syrup in a saucepan and bring to boiling. Keep syrup hot until used.

In a large kettle, mix the ingredients for the brining solution. Add the cut cucumbers, cover, and simmer until the cucumbers change color from bright to dull green (5 to 7 minutes). Drain the cucumber slices. Fill pint jars, and cover with hot canning syrup, leaving ½-inch headspace.

Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

### My processing time

Pints \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

## Bread-and-butter pickles

6 lb pickling cucumbers (4- to 5-inch)  
 8 cups thinly sliced onions (about 3 lb)  
 ½ cup canning or pickling salt  
 4 cups vinegar (5%)  
 4½ cups sugar  
 2 Tbsp mustard seed  
 1½ Tbsp celery seed  
 1 Tbsp ground turmeric

**My processing time**  
 Pints or quarts    \_\_\_\_ minutes

**Yield** About 8 pints

**Procedure** Wash cucumbers. Cut ¼ inch off blossom end and discard. Cut into ¾-inch slices. Combine cucumbers and onions in a large bowl. Add salt. Cover with 2 inches crushed or cubed ice. Refrigerate 3 to 4 hours, adding more ice as needed. Drain. Combine remaining ingredients in a large pot. Boil 10 minutes. Add cucumbers and onions and slowly reheat to boiling.

Fill pint or quart jars with slices and cooking syrup, leaving ½-inch headspace. Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

**Variation: firmer pickles** Wash cucumbers. Cut ¼ inch off blossom end and discard. Cut into ¾-inch slices. Mix 1 cup pickling lime and ½ cup salt to 1 gallon water in a 2- to 3-gallon crock or enamelware container.

*Caution: Avoid inhaling lime dust while mixing the lime-and-water solution.*

Soak cucumber slices in lime water for 12 to 24 hours, stirring occasionally. Remove from lime solution, rinse, and resoak 1 hour in fresh cold water. Repeat the rinsing and soaking steps two more times in fresh water. Handle carefully—slices will be brittle. Drain well.

**Variation: squash instead of cucumbers** Substitute slender (1 to 1½ inches in diameter) zucchini or yellow summer squash for cucumbers.

**Storage** After processing and cooling, store jars 4 to 5 weeks to develop ideal flavor.

## Sweet gherkin pickles

7 lb cucumbers (1½ inch or less)  
 ½ cup canning or pickling salt  
 6 cups vinegar (5%)  
 8 cups sugar  
 ¾ tsp turmeric  
 2 tsp celery seeds  
 2 tsp whole mixed pickling spice (optional)  
 2 cinnamon sticks  
 ½ tsp fennel (optional)  
 2 tsp vanilla (optional)

**My processing time**  
 Pints    \_\_\_\_ minutes

**Yield** 6 to 7 pints

**Procedure** Wash cucumbers. Cut  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch slice off blossom end and discard, but leave  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of stem attached. Place cucumbers in large container and cover with boiling water. Six to 8 hours later, drain and cover with 6 quarts of fresh boiling water containing  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup salt. Repeat on the second day.

On the third day, drain and prick cucumbers with a table fork. Combine and bring to boil 3 cups vinegar, 3 cups sugar, and spices. Pour over cucumbers. Six to 8 hours later, drain and save the pickling syrup. Add another 2 cups each of sugar and vinegar to the syrup and reheat to boiling. Pour over pickles.

On the fourth day, drain and save syrup. Add another 2 cups sugar and 1 cup vinegar. Heat syrup to boiling and pour over pickles. Let sit 6 to 8 hours and then drain, saving the pickling syrup. Add 1 cup sugar and 2 teaspoons vanilla and heat to boiling. Fill pint jars with pickles and cover with hot syrup, leaving  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch headspace. Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

## Pickled asparagus

8 pints asparagus spears  
6 cups water  
6 cups white vinegar (5%)  
6 Tbsp salt  
2 tsp pickling spice (remove cloves)  
garlic, 1 clove per jar

### My processing time

Pints or quarts \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

**Yield** 8 pints

**Procedure** Wash asparagus well in cool water. Cut into jar-length spears. Combine water, vinegar, salt, and mixed pickling spices (tied into a clean, thin, white cloth). Heat to boiling. Remove bag containing spices.

Pack asparagus into pint or quart jars (with tip ends down for easier removal). Put 1 clove garlic in each jar. Cover with boiling brine, leaving  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch headspace. Adjust jar lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

## Pickled dilled beans

4 lb fresh tender green or yellow beans (5- to 6-inch)  
8 to 16 heads fresh dill or basil sprigs  
8 cloves garlic (optional)  
½ cup canning or pickling salt  
4 cups white vinegar (5%)  
4 cups water  
1 tsp hot red pepper flakes (optional)

### My processing time

Pints \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

**Yield** About 8 pints

**Procedure** Wash and trim ends from the beans and cut to 4-inch lengths. In each pint jar, place 1 to 2 dill heads and, if desired, 1 clove of garlic. Place whole beans upright in pint jars, leaving ½-inch headspace. Trim beans to ensure proper fit, if necessary.

Combine salt, vinegar, water, and pepper flakes (if desired). Bring to a boil. Add hot solution to beans, leaving ½-inch headspace. Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

## Pickled three-bean salad

1½ cups cut and blanched green or yellow beans (prepared as below)  
1½ cups canned, drained red kidney beans  
1 cup canned, drained garbanzo beans  
½ cup peeled and thinly sliced onion (about 1 medium onion)  
½ cup trimmed and thinly sliced celery (1½ medium stalks)  
½ cup sliced green peppers (½ medium pepper)  
½ cup white vinegar (5%)  
¼ cup bottled lemon juice  
¾ cup sugar  
1¼ cups water  
¼ cup oil  
½ tsp canning or pickling salt

### My processing time

Half-pints or pints \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

**Yield** 5 to 6 half-pints

**Procedure** Wash and snap off ends of fresh beans. Cut or snap into 1- to 2-inch pieces. Blanch 3 minutes and cool immediately. Rinse kidney beans with tap water and drain again. Prepare and measure all other vegetables. Combine vinegar, lemon juice, sugar, and water and bring to a boil. Remove from heat.

Add oil and salt and mix well. Add beans, onions, celery, and green pepper and bring to a simmer. Marinate 12 to 14 hours in refrigerator, then heat entire mixture to a boil. Fill half-pint or pint jars with the vegetables. Add hot liquid, leaving ½-inch headspace. Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

## Pickled beets

7 lb beets (2 to 2½ inches in diameter)  
4 cups vinegar (5%)  
1½ tsp canning or pickling salt  
2 cups sugar  
2 cups water  
2 cinnamon sticks  
12 whole cloves  
4 to 6 onions (2- to 2½-inch diameter), if desired

<b>My processing time</b>
---------------------------

Pints or quarts    ____ minutes
---------------------------------

**Yield** About 8 pints

**Procedure** Trim off beet tops, leaving 1 inch of stem and roots to prevent bleeding of color. Wash thoroughly. Sort for size. Cover similar sizes together with boiling water and cook until tender (25 to 30 minutes). Drain and discard the liquid.

Cool beets. Trim off roots and stems and slip off skins. Cut into ¼-inch slices. Peel and thinly slice onions. Combine vinegar, salt, sugar, and fresh water. Put spices in cheesecloth bag and add to vinegar mixture. Bring to a boil.

Add beets and onions. Simmer 5 minutes. Remove spice bag. Fill pint or quart jars with beets and onions, leaving ½-inch headspace. Add hot vinegar solution, leaving ½-inch headspace. Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

**Variation: whole baby beets** Follow above directions but use beets that are 1 to 1½ inches in diameter. Pack whole; don't slice. Onions may be omitted.

## Pickled hot peppers

- 4 lb hot long red, green, or yellow peppers (Hungarian, banana, chile, jalapeño)
- 3 lb sweet red and green peppers, mixed
- 5 cups vinegar (5%)
- 1 cup water
- 4 tsp canning or pickling salt
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 2 cloves garlic

**My processing time**

Half-pints or pints    \_\_\_\_ minutes

**Yield** About 9 pints

*Caution: To prevent burns, wear rubber gloves when you handle hot peppers, or wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before touching your face.*

**Procedure** Wash peppers. If small peppers are left whole, slash two to four slits in each. Quarter large peppers. Blanch in boiling water or blister skin to peel. (To blister, place peppers in a 400°F oven or under the broiler for 6 to 8 minutes or until skins blister.) Allow peppers to cool by placing in a pan and covering with a damp cloth. After several minutes, peel. Flatten small peppers.

Fill half-pint or pint jars, leaving ½-inch headspace. Combine and heat other ingredients to boiling and simmer 10 minutes.

Remove garlic. Add hot pickling solution over peppers, leaving ½-inch headspace. Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

## Marinated whole mushrooms

- 7 lb small whole mushrooms
- ½ cup bottled lemon juice
- 2 cups olive or salad oil
- 2½ cups white vinegar (5%)
- 1 Tbsp dried oregano leaves
- 1 Tbsp dried basil leaves
- 1 Tbsp canning or pickling salt
- ½ cup finely chopped onion
- ¼ cup diced pimento
- 2 cloves garlic, cut in quarters
- 25 black peppercorns

**My processing time**

Half-pints    \_\_\_\_ minutes

**Yield** About 9 half-pints

**Procedure** Select very fresh unopened mushrooms with caps less than ¼ inches in diameter. Wash. Cut stems, leaving ¼ inch attached to cap. Add lemon juice and water to cover. Bring to boil. Simmer 5 minutes. Drain mushrooms.

Mix olive oil, vinegar, oregano, basil, and salt in a saucepan. Stir in onions and pimento and heat to boiling. Place ¼ garlic clove and 2 to 3 peppercorns

in each half-pint jar. Fill half-pint jars with mushrooms and hot, well-mixed oil–vinegar solution, leaving  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch headspace. Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

## Pickle relish

3 quarts chopped cucumbers  
3 cups each of chopped sweet green and red peppers  
1 cup chopped onions  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup canning or pickling salt  
4 cups crushed ice  
8 cups water  
2 cups sugar  
4 tsp each of mustard seed, turmeric,  
whole allspice, and whole cloves  
6 cups white vinegar (5%)

<b>My processing time</b>
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Half-pints or pints _____ minutes
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**Yield** About 9 pints

**Procedure** Add cucumbers, peppers, onions, salt, and ice to water and let stand 4 hours. Drain and re-cover vegetables with fresh ice water for another hour. Drain again.

Combine spices in a spice or cheesecloth bag. Add spices to sugar and vinegar. Heat to boiling and pour mixture over vegetables. Cover and refrigerate 24 hours.

Heat mixture to boiling and fill hot half-pint or pint jars, leaving  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch headspace. Adjust lids and use conventional boiling-water canner processing (pages 5 and 6) or lower temperature pasteurization (page 5).

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