



Awesome Grapefruit Agua Fresca

By Erin Fletter

Prep Time 10 / **Cook Time** / **Serves** 4 - 6

Fun-Da-Mentals Kitchen Skills

slice: to cut into thin pieces using a sawing motion with your knife.

knife skills: Bear Claw (growl), Pinch, Plank, and Bridge (look out for trolls) and Rock and Saw.

blend: to stir together two or more ingredients until just combined; blending is a gentler process than mixing.

Equipment

- Cutting board + kid-safe knife
- Citrus juicer (optional)
- Measuring spoons
- Liquid measuring cup
- Blender (or pitcher + immersion blender)

Ingredients

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- 2 grapefruits
- 1 lemon
- 2 T sugar
- 2 C cold water
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 small handful parsley leaves

Food Allergen Substitutions

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Instructions

Awesome Grapefruit Agua Fresca

slice + squeeze + measure

Slice **2 pink grapefruits** and **1 lemon** in halves. Squeeze to get all the juice out, then add it to a blender (no seeds!). Measure **2 tablespoons sugar**, **2 cups cold water**, **1 pinch of salt**, and **1 small handful of parsley leaves** and add to the blender.

blend + pour + enjoy

Blend on high to purée the parsley, then pour into cups and enjoy!

Featured Ingredient: Grapefruit!

Hi! I'm Grapefruit!

"Grapefruits are one of the larger citrus fruits. You may have eaten us with breakfast or drank our juice. Did you know you can squeeze close to a cup of juice out of one grapefruit?! It may seem like pink grapefruits are sweeter but whether we are white, pink, or red, we have the same amount of sugar!"

History & Etymology

The grapefruit is a large, round citrus fruit that originated in Barbados, an island country in the Caribbean. It came about by accident as a natural hybrid of a sweet orange and a pomelo, the largest citrus fruit. The story is told that Captain Shaddock (or Chaddock) brought pomelo seeds to the West Indies in the 17th century and grew that fruit. Then, sometime during the middle of the 1700s, the offspring of a natural cross between a pomelo and a sweet orange developed and became known initially as "forbidden fruit." The word "grapefruit" was likely coined in the 1800s because the fruit tends to grow in clusters, similar to grapes (although much, much larger than grapes!).

China produces over half of the grapefruit in the world. Vietnam, the United States, and Mexico are the next biggest producers.

Florida grows the most grapefruit in the US, followed by California and Texas.

The Texas red grapefruit is the state fruit of Texas.

February is National Grapefruit Month!

Anatomy

The grapefruit tree's scientific name is "Citrus × paradisi" (the × indicates it is a hybrid). It is a subtropical tree that grows 15 to 20 feet tall. The fruit grows in clusters.

Grapefruit skin starts out green but turns yellow to yellow-orange when ripe. Grapefruit flesh has sections like lemons and oranges, and its color can be light yellow to red, depending on the variety. Its pulp contains a lot of juice.

How to Pick, Buy, & Eat

When selecting grapefruit in the market, choose ones that are heavy for their size (juicy!) and have a uniform color. A white grapefruit's skin will be yellow, a pink grapefruit will be yellow-orange, and a red grapefruit will be orange. A more oval than round shape means the fruit is riper.

Grapefruit can taste bitter due to a flavonoid called "naringin." The riper the grapefruit, the sweeter it is. Some people add sugar to lessen the bitterness, and others add a bit of salt. Avoid eating the pith, the white tissue lining the inside of the skin, as it is always bitter.

Grapefruit and its juice are popular for breakfast. The fruit is often cut in half, and the flesh scooped out with a spoon. You can buy a special grapefruit spoon that is serrated on each side to help separate the sections.

Cooking grapefruit also lessens its bitterness. Sprinkling a little brown sugar on a grapefruit half and broiling it is a popular way to eat grapefruit.

You can add grapefruit sections to salads and its juice to vinaigrettes. You can also use grapefruit and its juice in desserts, entrees, and drinks.

Nutrition

According to the USDA, one-half of a grapefruit contains the total amount of vitamin C your body needs in one day! It also has six grams of fiber, making it one of the highest-fiber fruits. Pink and red grapefruit have more beta-carotene than white grapefruit. Beta-carotene is an antioxidant and changes to vitamin A in our bodies.

Grapefruit and grapefruit juice interact with some medications, so it is vital to check drug interactions for a particular medicine before ingesting grapefruit or grapefruit juice. It can also affect the absorption of certain medications.