Dried Persimmons & Cucumber with Gochujang

by Jeong Kwan Snim

INGREDIENTS (Serves 4 people)

- 500g Dried persimmons
- 100g Cucumber
- Sea salt
- 3 tbsp Green plum extract
- 2 tbsp Red chili paste
- 2 tbsp Red chili powder
- 1 tbsp Raspberry extract
- 2 tbsp Persimmon vinegar
- 2 tbsp Rice malt
- 1 tbsp Aged soy sauce

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. PREPARE PERSIMMONS. Cut dried persimmons into bite-size pieces.
- 2. PICKLE CUCUMBERS. Quarter cucumbers lengthwise, remove seeds, and cut into 3-5 cm pieces. Toss with a dash of sea salt, 1 the vinegar, and 3 the green plum extract. Let sit for 10 min, then squeeze out excess water.
- **3.** MAKE SEASONING. In a bowl, combine raspberry extract, aged soy sauce, persimmon vinegar, rice malt, chili powder, and chili paste.
- **4.** MIX. Add dried persimmons and cucumber to the seasoning. Mix well until evenly coated.
- **5. SERVE.** Serve as a refreshing, sweet-spicy side dish. For a chewier texture, marinate for 1–2 days before serving.



Braised Pyogo (Shiitake) Mushrooms in Rice Syrup

by Jeong Kwan Snim

INGREDIENTS (Serves 4 people)

- 20 pcs Shiitake mushrooms, dried.
 Sun-dried for 3 days, rehydrated before cooking
- 2 tbsp Soy sauce jin-ganjang Traditional Korean soy sauce
- Water For braising
- 1 tbsp Perilla oil
- 2 tbsp Rice syrup (jocheong) Korean traditional sweetener
- Pinch Sea salt

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. PREPARE MUSHROOMS. Wash fresh Shiitake mushrooms, trim stems, and sun-dry for 3 days. Rehydrate until softened before cooking.
- 2. MAKE BRAISING BASE. In a shallow pan, combine water (enough to cover mushrooms), sea salt, soy sauce, and perilla oil. Bring to a gentle boil.
- 3. BRAISE MUSHROOMS. Add Shiitake mushrooms. Simmer over medium heat, spooning the liquid continuously over them to allow even absorption of flavors.
- **4. FINISH WITH RICE SYRUP.** When liquid has reduced by half, lower the heat and continue to braise slowly. Add rice syrup and cook until mushrooms are glossy and richly glazed.
- **5. SERVE.** *Arrange neatly on a plate.*

