Incredible Coconut Cake

Taste of Home

Servings: 16

Preparation Time: 35 minutes

Bake Time: 25 minutes

CAKE

5 eggs, separated 2 cups sugar 1/2 cup butter 1/2 cup canola oil

1 teaspoon coconut extract 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/4 teaspoon almond extract

2 1/4 cups cake flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 cup buttermilk

2 cups flaked coconut, chopped

1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar

FROSTING

11 ounces cream cheese, softened

2/3 cup butter, softened

4 1/3 cups confectioners sugar

1 1/4 teaspoons coconut extract

2 cups flaked coconut, toasted

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Place egg whites in a large bowl; let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes.

In another large bowl, beat the sugar, butter and oil until light and fluffy. Add egg yolks, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in the extracts.

In another bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; add to creamed mixture alternately with buttermilk, beating well after each addition. Stir in coconut.

Add cream of tartar to egg whites; beat until stiff peaks form. Gently fold into batter.

Transfer to three greased and floured 9-inch round baking pans.

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

For the frosting, in a small bowl, beat the cream cheese and butter until fluffy. Add confectioners sugar and extract; beat until smooth.

Place one cake layer on a serving plate; spread with 1/2 cup of frosting and sprinkle with 1/3 cup of coconut.

Repeat with a second layer.

Top with the remaining cake layer. Spread the remaining frosting over top and sides of cake; sprinkle with remaining coconut.

Refrigerate for two hours before cutting.

Store in the refrigerator.