Sugar takes on different flavors

Liz Scott in her cookbook "The Sober Kitchen" talks about using infused granulated sugar as an alternative to traditional extracts.

Granulated sugar can take on many flavors with vanilla sugar being the most well known. Vanilla sugar makes a wonderful sweetener for fruit, coffee and tea as well as an alternative ingredient in many baking recipes

Vanilla Sugar

To make vanilla sugar, pour one pound of sugar in an airtight container and insert one or two whole vanilla beans. Close tightly for about a week. Shake occasionally. As the vanilla sugar is used add more granulated sugar as the vanilla bean will continue to flavor the sugar for up to six months. Any used vanilla beans can also be added to the container after they are dried completely. Confectioners vanilla sugar can be used for dusting of cakes, tarts and cookies.

Cinnamon Sugar

Combine three parts granulated sugar to one part cinnamon. For 1/ 4 cup use three tablespoons granu-

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lated white sugar with one tablespoon cinnamon. Cinnamon sugar finely ground in a spice or coffee can be stored in a jar.

Citrus Sugar

Place a jar of plain sugar with the rind of an orange, lemon, lime or any citrus combination in a cool dark place for only a few weeks. Keep adding white sugar as the citrus sugar is used. Simple syrup from citrus flavored sugar can be used as a substitute for orange based liqueurs

Herb or Flower Sugar

Use two parts sugar to one part whole leaves of herbs or edible flowers. Try mint leaves, lavender, geranium or other petals from edible flowers. Make sure the leaves or flowers have not been sprayed with toxic substances. Instant flavored sugar

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Combine granulated sugar with mint leaves or orange rind in a food processor and finely blend. Use a ratio of two parts granulated sugar to one part leaves or orange rind. Anise seeds that have been

grinder can be processed with sugar in food processor for anise sugar. Use about one tablespoon anise seeds to one cup sugar. Anise sugar syrup can be used for a substitute for licorice flavored liqueurs

Flavored teas can also be used for scented sweet alcohol substitutes when steeped in hot simple syrup. Use three bags per cup of syrup. Try orange pekoe or flavored herbal tea to use in soaking and flavoring cakes such as traditional rum baba or sponge cakes. Fresh sage and tarragon steeped in simple syrup and white grape juice is a great substitute for sweet vermouth.

For the people who like the kick of hot pepper I wonder what would happen if you put a dried hot pepper in a pound of sugar to flavor, sweet with a kick?



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