



Weird Watermelon Warbles and Whimsies --The Sequel.MP3

Gary Crawford: [00:00:00] And now it's time for.

[00:00:01] Your Weird Watermelon Warbles and Whimsies the sequel. Sequels we all know never as good as the original but this watermelon sequence juicy or seedier has more action than the original which came to you a few days ago from the education tent here at the Agriculture Department's Farmer's Market in Washington. We talked with Chief VegUcator Laura Popielski about buying store and cutting watermelons. Today we're back to talk a little bit about among other things the psycho sexual life of the watermelon.

Laura Popielski: [00:00:26] Oh yeah.

Gary Crawford: [00:00:27] You see a watermelon has an identity crisis. Some call it a fruit because it looks like one taste like one fits the definition of a fruit which is the seed bearing ovary of a plant. But Laura says Would it surprise you to know.

Laura Popielski: [00:00:38] That a watermelon is actually a berry.

Gary Crawford: [00:00:40] Whoa that's some big berry.

Laura Popielski: [00:00:41] It's a very large berry. Yeah.

Gary Crawford: [00:00:43] Why a berry though Laura?

Laura Popielski: [00:00:44] Because it is a fleshy fruit with multiple seeds on the inside embedded in the flesh of the ovary.

Gary Crawford: [00:00:50] You see it is a fruit with a seedy side making it a berry but even the Agriculture Department itself classifies watermelons as vegetables because they are grown the same way as other vegetables. Now for three years I have bought watermelon starter plants to grow my own seedless melons but never got anything beyond a little baseball sized undeveloped fruit, a vegetable, a berry whatever. So we're going to go over here to the stand of Woerner's Orchards here at the market in Pennsylvania. Brad Woener says I forgot about the sex life of the watermelon.

Brad Woerner: [00:01:22] You have to grow a seeded plant with them because a seedless watermelon doesn't have pollen in it and they have to cross pollinate with a seeded watermelon so a lot of home growers don't know that and therefore they won't get anything.

Gary Crawford: [00:01:34] No wonder then. Back to the VegUcation tent here with Laura.

Laura Popielski: [00:01:38] I'll give you a break from the daily "rind.

Gary Crawford: [00:01:39] Haha daily rind. OK so Laura what about some new ideas for watermelon?

Laura Popielski: [00:01:43] What about putting them in a salad that's very savory? So you could mix them with mint and lime salt and cayenne and do like a spicy salad or maybe with parsley and olives feta cheese and red onions. Give the watermelon a new venue in the salad world.

Gary Crawford: [00:01:59] You've got one for the dessert world too right?

Laura Popielski: [00:02:02] Make a watermelon cake.

Gary Crawford: [00:02:03] Cake?

Laura Popielski: [00:02:04] Cut two big chunks of watermelon that are like cake shaped like round and you make sure you cut off that rind too. And then you put them together with kind of a whipped topping in the middle and then cover it and whipped topping and maybe decorate with some other fruits and you cut it open and it looks like a two tiered cake.

Gary Crawford: [00:02:20] Or cut a slice of watermelon and just eat it. Laura and her co-host Kayla Johnson have folks lined up here with slices of watermelon in front of them for a contest using no hands eating the melon down to the rind fastest one wins. Kayla starts the action with the whistle.

[00:02:34] "Whistle blows"

Gary Crawford: [00:02:35] And they're off to me. Oh what a mess too! Already! We've got a winner already. Clark from D.C. How did you do it so fast?

Clark : [00:02:46] I took a big bite. I was trying to figure out should I try to swallowing it first or like get all the other bites so decided rapid fire and keep biting, biting and biting!

Gary Crawford: [00:02:53] So we'd better buy some watermelon soon before the summer is over. Gary Crawford for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington.