

Infused Tree Syrup Product Guidance

Definition: Infused tree syrups are a value-added product where freeze dried, fresh, or dehydrated items such as blueberries, vanilla, or cinnamon sticks are added to pure maple syrup, then the mixture is heated to flavor the syrup. Common infusion ingredients include vanilla beans, berries (blueberry, elderberry, strawberry, etc.), cinnamon sticks, citrus zest (orange, lemon, etc.), garlic, hot pepper, and herbs (basil, mint, etc.). In most cases, the ingredients are freeze dried or dehydrated before the process begins. This guidance only applies to additives which are not capable of supporting growth of infectious or toxigenic organisms. It is important to note that additional additives may not be added if they change the identity of the product- maple syrup must remain the primary ingredient. For example, marinara with maple as an ingredient must follow the rules for sauces and condiments.

Approved Infusion Process:

Finished maple syrup is combined with infusion ingredients and brought to 210 degrees Fahrenheit

Infused syrup is held at 210 degrees Fahrenheit for 10 minutes or 180 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes to complete infusion. This also acts as a kill step for any bacteria or other microorganisms

Infusion ingredients MAY be left in bottle after the heating step. You may want to strain to prevent flavor change over time or for visual presentation.

Recheck brix level and add pure sap or distilled water if above 69, continue heating if below 66.

Syrup can then be cooled and stored as normal or directly bottled following best practices. Syrup must be heated to at least 180 degrees for bottling.

Regulations Surrounding Infused Syrups based on where they are sold:

Where sold	Farmers Market Vendor Permit	Process Authority	Other Notes
Famers Market	Yes	No	Farmers Market Law Applies
On Farm	No	No	Farmers Market Law Applies
Retail in WV	No	No	WVDA or DHHR Inspection potentially

This process with time and temperature controls **MUST** be followed to assure a kill step with the additive ingredients. Direct infusion without the heating step to the appropriate temperature is unallowable.