



URBAN EST
1981 WINERY
& CRAFT BREWING SUPPLIES

Mild Thing

English Mild Ale – 5.5 Gal - OG 1.039 – FG 1.012 – ABV 3.5% - IBU 21 – SRM 24

We're very excited for this recipe. For the last couple of years we have partnered with a local homebrewing group called True Grist with various bulk buys and projects. Recently they held a 'People's Choice' contest; a bunch of their members submitted one recipe and they anonymously voted on a winner. Phil Harrison's 'Mild Thing' was the winner and we're featuring his recipe for our March Beer of the Month!

Phil Harrison, originally from England, is a fisheries scientist at the University of Waterloo. His father is a card carrying member of the CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) and this beer was designed for his old man. It is a ruby red, low alcohol, school night beer, with enough malty rich roasty character to keep coming back too. It's not a beer that needs to age, and Phil recommends it be served with a lower CO2 volume (1.5 vol or less).

Ingredients

Grains

	Amount (lbs)
Golden Promise	6.0
Crystal Light	0.75
Crystal Dark	0.75
Flaked Wheat	0.5
Chocolate	0.37
Roasted Barley	0.06

Hops

	Amount (oz)	Boil Schedule (minutes)
Fuggle (4.2%)	1	60
Fuggle (4.2%)	1	15

Yeast

Foggy London Ale (Escarpment Labs)	1 Package	Dry Alternative: S-04
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Extras

Irish Moss	1 tsp for last 15 minutes of boil	
Dry Malt Extract	150g at bottling for priming	Or Dextrose

Important Tips on Brewing

- Be extra cautious when it comes to cleaning! Once you have stopped boiling your wort everything that gets in contact with the beer **MUST** be sanitary.
- The temperature of your mash is **ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL**. Not being in the 150-155f range can drastically affect your beer. Make sure you correct the temperature ASAP once all of the grain has been added to the mash.
- Always let your beer ferment for 10 days! Do not disturb it, do not open the lid. It is absolutely natural for the airlock to stop bubbling after a few days, it is still fermenting though.
- **Oxidization:** Airspace is always something to consider. When undergoing primary fermentation airspace is needed so that the beer can bubble up and ferment vigoursley without leaking out of the container. The fermentation creates a layer of CO2 that remains in the pail due to the airlock. Once primary fermentation is over and the lid has been opened, the layer of CO2 dissipates and oxygen replaces it. At this point airspace can ruin your beer. When racking into carboys make sure they are filled to the top, or you blast CO2 inside to prevent oxidization. Ask us for details on this!
- Before bottling, make sure you use a priming calculator (many can be found online) to verify the amount of sugar that needs to be added.

[Step by step Instructions on the other side](#) →→→

Instructions

Mashing -> converting the grain into a fermentable liquid.

- 1) Bring 6 gallons of water in your brew pot to 155°F. This is our **strike temperature**. Turn off the heat to the pot.
- 2) Wrap the muslin/nylon bag around the brew pot and slowly pour all the milled grains into the bag. Stir them in while adding to prevent clumps. The addition of grain should drop the temperature down to 150-155°F.
- 3) We want to **mash the grain at 150°F for 60 minutes**. It is very important to hold the temperature at 150°F. If the temperature rises above 155°F it hurts the fermentation, or if it dips below 149°F it can lead to a thinner tasting beer.
 - a. **The first 15-30 minutes are essential for the success of your brew. The temperature HAS TO BE IN THE RANGE OF 150-155°F.** Sometimes adding the grain to the strike water does not lower the temperature enough, in this case add a little bit of cold water to bring the temperature down. Cover the pot with your lid and let it sit.
 - b. Most brew pots will be able to maintain 150°F without adding heat for 20 minutes, we recommend checking the temperature every 15 minutes, and if it drops add more heat to bring it up. We recommend opening the lid and using a thermometer in the liquid.
- 4) After 60 minutes, bring the temperature of the mashing grain up to 170°F and hold for 10 minutes. This is our **mash out**.
- 5) Time to remove the grain. Lift the bag full of grain out of the brew pot. Let the liquid in the bag dribble into your wort. Once that is done, put the bag inside of a brewing pail, or another empty pot. There will be about 4 gallons of wort in the brewpot, we need to get it to 6 gallons before we can begin the next stage.
- 6) Run warm water through the grains in the bag, aim for 170°F – let it run through the grains and add to the brewpot. Add until you reach 6 gallons.
 - a. **PSA:** It is natural to think that the grains need to be squeezed to get all of the liquid out of them, **DO NOT DO THIS**. Aggressively squeezing the grains will lead to tannin extraction and a doughy taste in your beer. Lightly pressing the bag is fine, but do not try to squeeze every last drop out.

Boiling -> Hop addition time

- 1) Bring 6 gallons of your wort to a rolling boil, and let it boil for 5 minutes, this is called the hot break.
- 2) Set a timer for 60 minutes, add 1oz of Fuggle, and continue to keep the wort boiling (212°F) and uncovered.
- 3) With 15 minutes left in the 60 minute timer add 1oz of Fuggle, the Irish Moss and if you're using a wort chiller add that too.
- 4) Now it's time to cool the beer down to 75°F (20-25°C) as quickly as possible.
 - a. We love using a wort chiller for this, it can get the beer down to temperature in 20-30 minutes. Otherwise, you can immerse the brew pot in an ice bath, or wait it out. The longer it takes, the greater the risk of infection

Fermentation -> Turning the wort into beer

- 1) After the boil is done it is time to be extra careful in regards to sanitation. We recommend using a no-rinse sanitizer called Starsan. Mix ¼ tsp of it with water in a 500ml spray bottle. Before we touch any part of the beer we spray it with Starsan.
- 2) Transfer the cooled wort into your fermenting pail or carboy. Run it through a strainer to catch any hop or grain residue.
 - a. It is also **an important time to take a hydrometer reading**. It should be around 1.039 give or take a few points.
- 3) Your choice of fermentation vessel is important. During primary fermentation, it will bubble up quite a bit, you want to be sure there is airspace for it to work away. Otherwise the pressure of it will push out the airlock.
- 4) **Make sure the wort has been cooled to at least 25°C!!!** Adding yeast at a higher temperature will likely kill it.
- 5) Once the beer is in the fermenter, pour in the entire package of Foggy London Ale, or S-04 yeast.
- 6) Put the bung and airlock in the hole (make sure there is water filled up to the line in the airlock). If using a pail, make sure the lid is sealed tight. Put the pail in a room that is in the range of 18-21°C.
- 7) After 10 days have passed, take a hydrometer reading. It should be somewhere between 1.010-1.015.
- 8) Rack the beer into a sterilized 5-gallon carboy. It is important to fill the carboy to the top; airspace can lead to oxidation within 2 days.
 - a. *If you want to avoid secondary, let the beer sit in the fermenter for two weeks instead of 10 days and then proceed directly to bottling. This will slightly impact the clarity of the beer, but it will also limit potential issues with oxidation.*
- 9) If possible, let the beer sit somewhere nice and cold for 1-2 weeks. This will help with clarity and will give the beer a bit more crispness.

Bottling -> We're getting close to Beer Time now.

- 1) It's now been a couple of weeks since we first starting brewing. Rack the now fermented and clarified beer into your bucket.
- 2) At the same time, mix the priming sugar with 300ml of boiling water and add to the beer. Stir it in VERY gently.
 - a. Make sure to check out a priming calculator for this one. We recommend making it less carbonated than the average beer. Be sure to reflect that when running your numbers through the calculator. A CO2 volume of 1.5 is recommended.
 - b. **For 18L of beer this equates to ¼ cup of dextrose, or 0.4 cup of DME.**
- 3) Rack the beer into your bottles or growlers. Then, let them sit for 2 weeks at room temperature. Chill and enjoy!