**Buttermilk Congealed Salad**
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1 (20 ounce) crushed pineapple, *undrained*
1 to 2 tablespoons of granulated sugar, *or to taste*
1 large (0.6 ounce) box of strawberry, raspberry or cherry flavored gelatin
2 cups of buttermilk, sour cream, a salad dressing mayonnaise or creamed cottage cheese
2 cups of whipped cream or non-dairy topping (like Cool Whip)
1/2 cup of mini marshmallows, *optional*
1/2 cup of finely chopped pecans, *optional*

Add pineapple, with it's juices, and sugar to a saucepan and bring to a boil; stir in the gelatin until blended, remove from heat and let mixture cool completely. Cream the cottage cheese in a food processor or blender along with a spoon or two of the cooled pineapple mixture. Combine the pineapple mixture, cottage cheese and whipped topping; stir until well blended. Add marshmallows and pecans if using, stir well, cover and refrigerate until set, about 2 hours or longer. To serve, spoon into dessert bowls.

*Creamsicle Salad:* Omit the pineapple and substitute one 15 ounce can of mandarin oranges, drained, but juices retained. Exchange the red jello for orange. Boil the oranges with their juices as above; let cool slightly and continue preparation as above.

*Variations:* Cottage cheese, buttermilk, sour cream, a salad dressing mayonnaise like Miracle Whip - or any combination of these may be used for a total of 2 cups. You can also substitute one (8 ounce) block of cream cheese, softened at room temperature and stirred into the hot pineapple, and add in 1 cup of another one of the ingredients. May also vary the color and flavor using different gelatin flavors. Lemon, lime, or a combination of the two, apricot and orange are the most common gelatin flavors you'll see for this salad.

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