

Texas Sassy is a saucy find

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Eight years ago, Brenda Smeyne took a batch of her homemade pickles to friends. They loved the distinctive, spicy-sweet taste and urged her to sell them at a Christmas crafts show. The pickles were a hit, and by the following Christmas, Brenda was already dubbed "the Pickle Lady" by fans looking to buy more batches of her specialty.

When her husband, Maury, retired from IBM after 34 years, he suggested they turn Brenda's pickle hobby into a business. Today, Austin-based Texas Sassy products are in all Central Market stores, and the Smeynes' pickle relish, pickle sauce and pickle chips have won many awards at food festivals.

Besides the original pickle products, Texas Sassy also carries a spicy mustard sauce, a salsa marinade and a vinaigrette dressing. All of them are described as "sweet, sour and then spicy."

For more recipes or to order, see www.texas-sassy.com.

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Online at: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/fea/taste/stories/DN-nf_sassy_0830liv.State.Edition1.3e64b66.html