



## Salt Water Test for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) Larvae

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**Materials needed (shown above):** Quart size container or gallon size zip-lock bag, warm water, salt, measuring cup, tablespoon, potato masher.

**Fruit needed per test:** 100 raspberries, 50 blackberries, 100 blueberries or 50 strawberries.



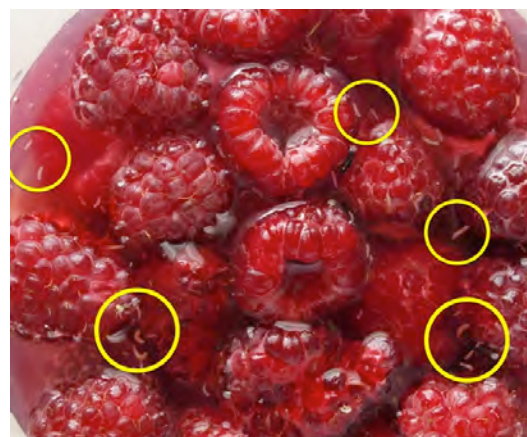
**Mix:** 8 oz. warm water (1 cup) with 1 tablespoon salt; may need to mix additional salt water solution to properly float berries.



**Combine:** Fruit and salt water solution until berries are floating in two inches of water.

**Wait:** Let berries sit in salt water for 10 minutes.

**Inspect:** Look for whitish larvae floating in water at top of bag or container. You can gently push berries to bottom of container with spoon or masher to see larvae easier; DO NOT crush fruit, this will make finding larvae more difficult. Image on right of raspberries with larvae circled in yellow.



**Determination:** If NO larvae are found, great, keep monitoring and checking fruit weekly.

If a FEW larvae are found, still doing very good but SWD are in the area, need to keep spray program active while harvesting berries.

If MORE than a few larvae are found (like the images below), it indicates at least one of the following: your spray program needs to be tightened up (reduce the number of days between sprays), your insecticide selection needs to be reviewed, or your sprayer and nozzles might need to be adjusted to get more spray to the plants and fruit.



**Fruit Management:** If there are significant amounts of larvae floated from berries (100's), it means they are heavily infested and probably should not be sold. If fruit is still firm, try salvaging by refrigerating immediately after picking to slow larval development, fruit damage, and possibly kill these larvae. If infested berries are left at room temperature after picking they will quickly deteriorate within 1-2 days.



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