



Checking 5784 Fruits

In honor of Tu B'Shvat, many people have a custom to eat various fruits. STAR-K presents a handy guide* to checking various fruits grown and purchased in the United States. Checking procedures in other countries may differ.

**This guide is not meant to suggest that these fruits should be eaten on Tu B'Shvat.*

NO CHECKING REQUIRED

- Purchase good quality brands.
- Make sure everything is properly sealed and stored in a cool dry area. Improper storage can lead to infestation issues.



RINSE WELL

1. Wash the produce under a direct stream of water.
2. No further checking is necessary.



SOAP WASH

1. Prepare a basin of detergent solution, using at least 2 tablespoons of detergent per gallon of water.
2. Agitate the berries in the solution for 10-15 seconds.
3. Leave the berries to soak for at least one minute.
4. Rinse the berries well. **NOTE: Strawberries** must be rinsed *individually* under a strong stream of water.
5. Repeat steps 1-4.
6. For **strawberries**: cut off the tops of the berry along with a little of the fruit. No further checking is required.
7. For **blueberries**: we recommend inspecting samples for presence of scale insects that may be embedded in the outer layer of the berry. We do not recommend organic, pick-your-own, or wild grown blueberries.

VISUAL CHECK

Carob - Look for holes on the outside, which are a sign of infestation. Then break open in several places to check for infestation. **Dates & Figs** - Slice open and check inside carefully for infestation.

Note: Due to potential for improper storage concerns, these guidelines apply even if the fruit has a *hechsher*.



NOT RECOMMENDED

Checking is not practical.



PEEL PROPERLY



Insects infest the crown and outer rind as well as inside the blossom cups and crevices if the pineapple is not thoroughly peeled. The pineapple should be peeled until only yellow fruit is visible. The fruit and cutting board should be rinsed after peeling since the insects often crawl onto the cutting surface. The crown and rind should not be used on decorative platters since the insects can transfer to other fruit.