

Guide To Fishing Soft Plastics

Confused by the variety of soft plastic baits offered these days? Don't be. From swimbait tips to finesse worm tricks, we've got the scoop on how to catch more bass this spring.



Grub

Description: Short, pudgy, with twist or spear tail

Sizes: 2" to 5"

Application: Crappies, bluegills, bass, walleyes

Rigging: Jig 1/16 oz./3/16 -1/4 oz.

Rod/Action: Pole/6' MH Spinning

Line Test: 6-10 lb.

Retrieve—Vertical: jig, swim, hop



Spider Jig

Description: Tentacles at head, split twist-tail

Sizes: 2" to 5"

Application: Bass

Rigging: Jig 1/16 oz./Jig 3/16-1/4 oz.

Rod/Action: 6' MH Spinning/7' MH Bait-casting

Line Test: 6-8 lb./12-20 lb.

Retrieve: Short hops



Soft Craw

Description: Pincers and legs like real crayfish

Sizes: 2" to 5"

Application: Bass in spring

Rigging: Jig 1/16 oz./Jig 3/16-1/4 oz.

Rod/Action: 6' MH Spinning/7' MH Bait-casting

Line Test: 6-8 lb./12-20 lb.

Retrieve: Short hops



Tube Bait

Description: Hollow, squid-like; falls in spiral

Sizes: 1.5" to 5"

Application: Crappies, bluegills, bass

Rigging: Jig 1/32 to 1/8 oz./Texas rig

Rod/Action: Crappie pole/7' MH Bait-casting

Line Test: 6 lb./12-20 lb.

Retrieve: Vertical-jig, short hops



Slop Critter

Description: Mimics frog/rat; upswept hooks

Sizes: 3" to 5"

Application: Bass under surface vegetation

Rigging: Pre-rigged weedless

Rod/Action: 7' MH Bait-casting

Line Test: 20 lb.

Retrieve: Crawl over weed mats



Lizard

Description: Mimics a salamander

Sizes: 4" to 8"

Application: Bass in wood; bass in clear water

Rigging: Texas rig/Carolina rig

Rod/Action: 6' MH Spinning/6½' MH Bait-casting

Line Test: 8 lb./12 lb.

Retrieve: Short hops, drag points

**Twist-Tail Worm****Description:** Ribbon tail**Sizes:** 6" to 10"**Application:** Bass in wood or grass**Rigging:** Texas rig**Rod/Action:** 7' MH Bait-casting**Line Test:** 12-20 lb.**Retrieve:** Short hop**Paddle-tail Worm****Description:** Flat, beaver tail**Sizes:** 6" to 8"**Application:** Bass in thick grass**Rigging:** Texas rig with pegged sinker**Rod/Action:** 7' MH/H Bait-casting**Line Test:** 10-14 lb./14-20 lb.**Retrieve:** Short hops, flip in weeds**Finesse Worm****Description:** Short, slender**Sizes:** 4"**Application:** Bass in clear water**Rigging:** Texas rig or split shot**Rod/Action:** 6' M spin**Line Test:** 4-6 lb.**Retrieve:** Hop on rocks, drag points**Straight-Tail Worm****Description:** Fake night crawler**Sizes:** 6" to 8"**Application:** Bass in shallow cover**Rigging:** Weightless; bury hook in body**Rod/Action:** 6½' M Spinning**Line Test:** 8-12 lb.**Retrieve:** Skip under bushes**Creature****Description:** Worm body, twin tail, legs**Sizes:** 6"**Application:** Bass in thick cover**Rigging:** Pegged Texas rig**Rod/Action:** 7' MH or H Bait-casting**Line Test:** 14-20 lb./20-30 lb.**Retrieve:** Short hops, flip in brush**Soft Head****Description:** Fish body, blunt tail**Sizes:** 2" to 6"**Application:** River bass, stripers**Rigging:** Jig ¼ oz./Jig ½ to 1 oz.**Rod/Action:** 6' MH Spinning/7' MH Bait-casting**Line Test:** 6-8 lb./20 lb.**Retrieve:** Dart/pause, swim, hop



Centipede

Description: Flat, lots of legs, small twist tail

Sizes: 4"

Application: Bass on beds

Rigging: Texas rig

Rod/Action: 6' MH Spinning

Line Test: 8-10 lb.

Retrieve: Short hops



French Fry

Description: Small worm, blunt at both ends

Sizes: 4"

Application: Bass in clear, open water

Rigging: Carolina rig

Rod/Action: 6½' M Bait-casting

Line Test: 6-8 lb.

Retrieve: Drag points



Swim Bait

Description: Fish-like, blunt tail

Sizes: 6" to 8"

Application: Big bass, pike, muskies

Rigging: Pre-rigged with molded-in weight

Rod/Action: 7' H Bait-casting

Line Test: 14-30 lb.

Retrieve: Swim or twitch



Soft Jerkbait

Description: Chunky, tapered

Sizes: 4" to 10"

Application: Suspending bass

Rigging: Texposed hook, little or no weight

Rod/Action: 6½' M Bait-casting

Line Test: 10-14 lb.

Retrieve: Twitch/pause