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NEW THRIPS INFESTATION FOUND IN STRAWBERRIES

Fresh strawberries are well known to be infested with aphids, mites and thrips. These insects are quite effectively washed away after soaking the fruits in soapy water and thorough rinsing.

Two years ago a new type of tiny yellowish thrips was found on strawberries. These thrips can hide behind the strawberry's yellow grains, and a few of them survived even the toughest washing methods. Careful investigation was made. Hundreds of batches of best quality fresh strawberries were soaked in soapy water and other solutions and thoroughly washed in specialized labs all over the world: USA, Mexico, Argentina, Spain, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Poland, Israel, Morocco, South Africa, Australia and China.

All experiments led to the same results: even the best quality strawberries are infested with that new type of thrips, and no cleaning method was found to be 100% effective.

We still hope to find a practical method of cleaning.

Meanwhile, strawberries can be used in one of the following ways:

Method A: Cut off the leaf with a thin slice of the fruit that's touching it. Remove all very soft or cracked part, soak the strawberries in soapy water for 2-3 minutes, and then agitate them in the water. Rinse thoroughly under a strong stream of running water, a handful at a time. Repeat the process three times and then grind the strawberries finely or cook them.

Method B: After cutting off the leaf, as explained in method A, peel off the outer layer of the strawberry with a knife (a thin lawyer) and then rinse the peeled fruit well.

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