

Bass Basics



A SEASONAL GUIDE TO LURE SELECTION

By **DON WIRTH** / Senior Writer
Illustrations by **CHRIS ARMSTRONG**

If you're just getting into bass fishing, you may find yourself confused and intimidated by the sheer number of lures available today. But you don't need a huge selection of baits to catch bass, and you certainly don't need to carry every lure you own with you on every outing. This guide will help you select the baits that work best in both clear and murky lakes throughout your fishing year. Use inexpensive clear plastic utility tackleboxes (Plano makes good ones) to carry only the lures you need for the season and type of water you'll be fishing.

Murky Water

Clear Water

SUMMER

- Deep running crankbait** – 1/2 to 3/4 ounce; shad, firetiger, chartreuse/blue
- Plastic worm** – Texas rigged; 6 to 8 inches; black, purple, red shad
- Plastic worm** – Carolina rigged; 8 to 11 inches; black/blue, tequila sunrise, red shad
- Tube bait** – Texas rigged; watermelon, black/chartreuse, black/blue
- Spinnerbait (willow blades)** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; white, green (on windy days)
- Buzzbait** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; black, white, chartreuse
- Topwater prop bait or chugger** – 1/2 to 3/4 ounce; black, frog



SPRING: Spawn & Postspawn

- Jig-and-pig** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; black/blue, black/chartreuse, red/black
- Tube bait** – Texas rigged; watermelon, black/chartreuse, black/blue
- Shallow running crankbait** – 1/4 to 1/2 ounce; shad, firetiger, red
- Medium running crankbait** – 1/4 to 1/2 ounce; shad, craw, firetiger
- Soft plastic craw** – Texas rigged; black/chartreuse, brown, green
- Plastic worm** – Texas rigged; 6 to 8 inches; black, purple, red shad
- Spinnerbait (willow blades)** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; white, green (on windy days)
- Buzzbait** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; black, white, chartreuse



FALL

- Tube bait** – Texas rigged; watermelon, black/chartreuse, black/blue
- Lipless crankbait** – 1/4 to 1/2 ounce; silver, gold, red
- Medium running crankbait** – 1/4 to 1/2 ounce; shad, craw, firetiger
- Deep running crankbait** – 1/2 to 3/4 ounce; shad, firetiger, chartreuse/blue
- Spinnerbait (willow blades)** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; white, green (on windy days)
- Jig-and-pig** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; black/blue, black/chartreuse, red/black
- Buzzbait** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; black, white, chartreuse
- Topwater prop bait or chugger** – 1/2 to 3/4 ounce; black, frog



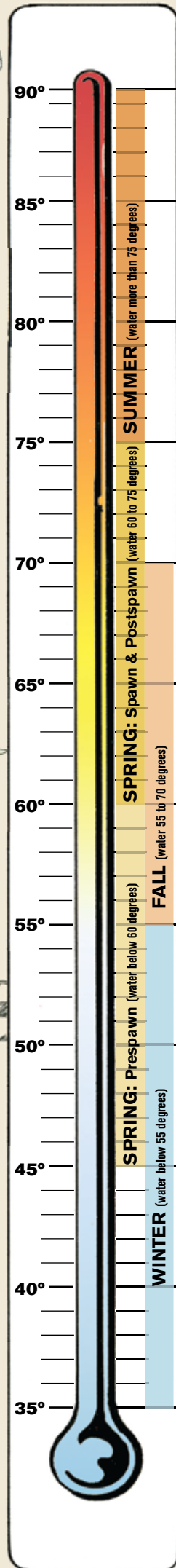
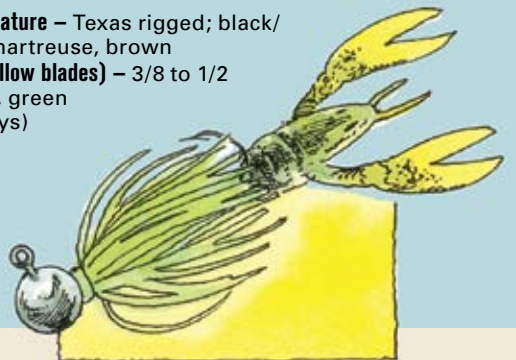
SPRING: Prespawn

- Jig-and-pig** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; black/blue, black/chartreuse, red/black
- Spinnerbaits (both willow and Colorado blades)** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; white, chartreuse
- Lipless crankbait** – 1/4 to 1/2 ounce; silver, gold, red
- Medium running crankbait** – 1/4 to 1/2 ounce; shad, craw, firetiger
- Lizard** – Texas rigged; 6 to 7 inches; green, brown, black
- Soft plastic craw** – Texas rigged; black/chartreuse, brown, green



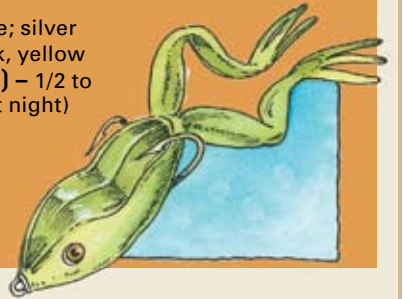
WINTER

- Jig-and-pig** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; black/blue, black/chartreuse, red/black
- Soft plastic creature** – Texas rigged; black/blue, black/chartreuse, brown
- Spinnerbait (willow blades)** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; white, green (on windy days)



SUMMER

- Stickworm (Senko-style worms)** – rigged on light-wire hook; watermelon, smoke, blue
- Jigging spoon** – 1/2 to 3/4 ounce; silver
- Weedless frog/rat** – white, black, yellow
- Spinnerbait (single Colorado blade)** – 1/2 to 1 ounce; black, purple, red (at night)
- Jig-and-pig** – 1/4 to 3/8 ounce; black, purple (at night)



SPRING: Spawn & Postspawn

- Grub** – 4 to 5 inches on 1/4-ounce jighead; smoke, pumpkin, chartreuse
- Soft plastic jerkbait** – Carolina rigged; 4 inches; watermelon, chartreuse, shad
- Floater/diver minnow** – 4 to 5 inches; silver, gold
- Floating (trick) worm** – 6 to 8 inches; pink, white, yellow
- Soft jerkbait** – white, watermelon
- Topwater stickbait** – 1/2 to 3/4 ounce; chrome, black



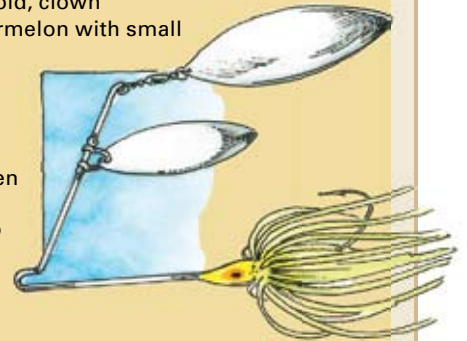
FALL

- Grub** – 4 to 5 inches on 1/4-ounce jighead; smoke, pumpkin, chartreuse
- Deep running crankbait** – 1/4 to 3/8 ounce; shad, craw, red (on windy days)
- Blade bait** – 1/4 to 1/2 ounce; silver, gold
- Tailspinner** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; shad, chrome
- Topwater stickbait** – 1/4 to 1/2 ounce; clear, shad



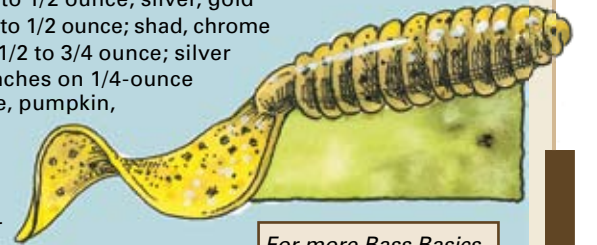
SPRING: Prespawn

- Suspending jerkbait** – silver, gold, clown
- Finesse jig** – 1/4 ounce; watermelon with small craw trailer
- Grub** – 4 to 5 inches on 1/4-ounce jighead; smoke, pumpkin, chartreuse
- Spinnerbait (willow blades)** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; white, green (on windy days)
- Deep running crankbait** – 1/4 to 3/8 ounce; shad, craw, red (on windy days)



WINTER

- Suspending jerkbait** – silver, gold, clown
- Blade bait** – 1/4 to 1/2 ounce; silver, gold
- Tailspinner** – 3/8 to 1/2 ounce; shad, chrome
- Jigging spoon** – 1/2 to 3/4 ounce; silver
- Grub** – 4 to 5 inches on 1/4-ounce jighead; smoke, pumpkin, chartreuse
- Hair jig** – 1/8 to 1/4 ounce; black, brown, yellow; with or without small pork trailer



For more Bass Basics, tune in to BassCenter every Saturday at 11 a.m. on ESPN2.