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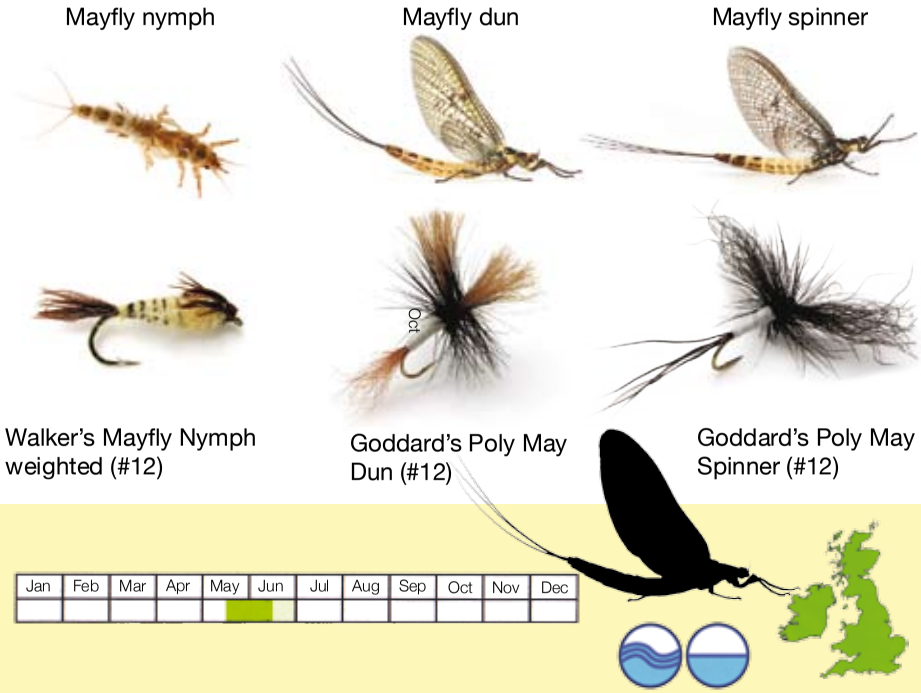
MAYFLIES *(Ephemera danica, E. vulgata and E. lineata)*



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MAYFLIES: There are three mayfly species in Britain and Ireland, all so alike that they can be treated as one.

- **The nymphs** are up to 2½cm long, and cream-coloured with dark markings and prominent gills which they hold over their backs. They tunnel into the sediment on the lake or river bed. The nymphal stage may last for one year or two.

- **The duns** are so large that they cannot be mistaken for any other species. Their cream bodies are 15–25cm long, and each one has pale grey wings and three tails. The timing of hatches varies from water to water but they generally occur daily, in the afternoon and early evening, between mid-May and mid-June.

- **The spinners** are similar in size to the duns, with white-ish bodies, three long tails and glittering, black-veined wings.

MATCHING THE HATCH

There are countless Mayfly patterns. On the Irish limestone loughs, there is a tradition of dapping with natural or artificial mayflies, a style of fishing which is fun and often very successful.

- **Alternatives** to the dun pattern shown above include the Grey Wulff, the Shadow Mayfly and French Partridge Mayflies. Neil Patterson's Deerstalker and Lunn's Spent Gnat are useful alternative spinners.

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HATCH CHART FOR RIVERS

Occasional
Frequent

Species	Page	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Large dark olive	8												
March brown	10												
Large brook dun	12												
Grannom	14												
Large stonefly	16												
Shrimp and louse	18												
Hawthorn	20												
Black gnat	20												
Midges	22												
Iron blue	24												
Caënis	26												
Mayfly	28												
Yellow May dun	30												
Medium olive	32												
Cinnamon sedge	36												
Welshman's button	36												
Caperer	36												
Alder	38												
Claret dun	40												
Beetles	44												
Blue-winged olive	50												
Olive upright	52												
Winged ants	54												
Crane flies	56												
Autumn dun	62												
Pale watery	64												