



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

Mayfly nymph



Mayfly dun



Mayfly spinner



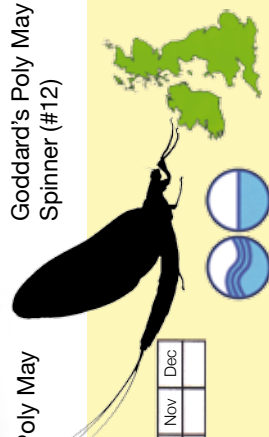
Walker's Mayfly Nymph weighted (#12)



Goddard's Poly May Dun (#12)



Goddard's Poly May Spinner (#12)



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**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.

