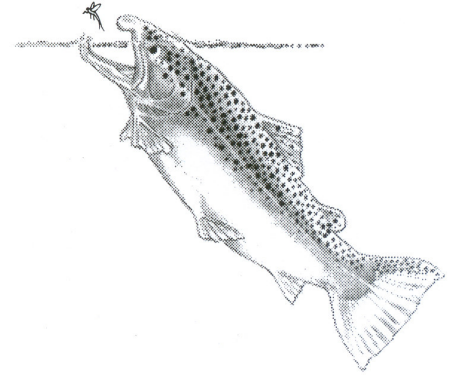


# Stream Weaver Flies

3829 - 50A Street, Red Deer, AB T4P 1E4  
Phone: (403) 343-8699



## AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL INSECTS PRESENT ON THE PROJECT AREA OF THE RED DEER RIVER

<u>INSECT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INSECT SIZE</u>	<u>EXPECTED HATCH DATES</u>
Tiny Black Stonefly	Size # 16 - 18	January - February
Small Brown Stonefly	Size # 14 - 16	March - April
March Brown Mayfly	Size # 14	Late April - May
Baetis Mayfly	Size # 16 - 22	Late April - May & Sept/Oct
Brachycentrus Caddisfly	Size # 14 - 16	May
Black Midge	Size # 20 - 24	May
Boatman	Size # 14 - 18	May & Oct (May minor activity)
*Little Yellow/Olive Stonefly	Size # 12 - 16	Mid May-June *See footnote
Salmonfly (Stonefly family)	Size # 2 - 4	Mid May - Early June
Skwala (Stonefly family)	Size # 8 - 10	Mid May - Early June
Giant Flying Ant (Carpenter Ant) rare years	Size # 8	May 23 - 26
Tiny Yellow Sallie	Size # 18 - 20	End of May - Late June
Arctopsyche Caddisfly	Size # 10 - 12	Late May - Mid July
Brown Drake Mayfly	Size # 8 - 10	Mid June - Late August
Pale Morning Dun	Size # 14 - 18	Late June - August
Hexagenia Mayfly	Size # 4 - 6	Mid July - Late July
*Pale Evening Dun (Heptagenia)	Size # 10 - 14	Late June - Aug * See footnote
*Yellow Quill Mayfly (Epeorus sp.)	Size # 14 - 16	July - August * See footnote
Golden Stonefly	Size # 4 - 6	July
Hydropsyche Caddisfly	Size # 14 - 16	July
Little Yellow Stonefly	Size # 14 - 16	July
Lime Sallie	Size # 12 - 14	July
Oecetis Caddisfly	Size # 16 - 18	July - August
Flying Ants (Heavy Fall)	Size # 12 - 14	Aug 14 - 26
Trico Mayfly	Size # 18 - 22	Late July - October
Beetles (Black/Orange)	Size # 12 - 14	August - September
Micro Caddisfly	Size # 22 - 24	June - September
Black Caddisfly	Size # 16 - 18	August - September
Backswimmer	Size # 12 - 14	September
Fall Caddisfly	Size # 8 - 10	Early September (Not October Caddis)
Mahogany Dun Mayfly (Paraleptophlebia)	Size # 14 - 16	September - October
Baetis Mayfly	Size # 18 - 22	September - October
Ephoron Album	Size # 12 - 14	September - Early October
Glossosoma Caddisfly	Size # 18 - 20	Late Aug - October
Helicopsyche Caddisfly	Size # 18	Late Aug - October
Cheumatopsyche Caddisfly	Size # 16 - 18	Mid Aug - Late September

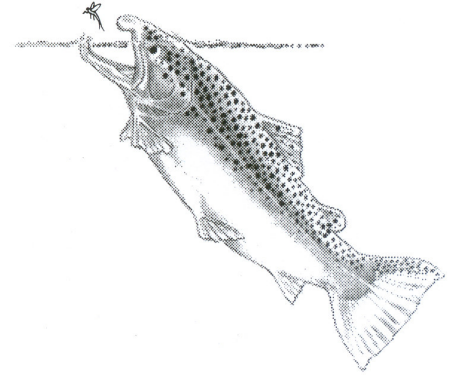
**Footnote: The Yellow/Olive Stonefly adult will at times have tinges of orange on the body.**

**Footnote: The Epeorus nymphs have two tails the Epeorus adult Dun & Spinner have two tails.**

**Footnote: The Heptagenia nymphs have three tails and the Heptagenia adult Dun & Spinner have two tails.**

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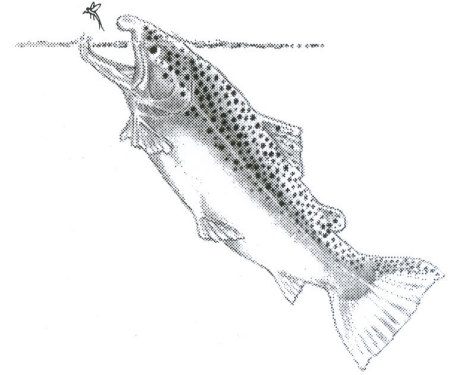
The section of river we refer to, as the project area on the Red Deer River is the section of water that is located between Dickson Dam and Joffre Bridge, which is an area of roughly sixty-three miles in length. The hatches and individual insects are laid out in the hatch chart on the previous page in the chronological order that they appear and progressively follow in the hatching process throughout the entire fishing season. It was felt that this format would make the most sense to the angler and allow him to purchase the appropriate patterns to match current conditions and hatches that would be taking place at the current time and into the near future. This would allow the angler to be prepared to meet the current hatches and at the same time keep their fly purchases to a minimum, which would save them money.

Now lets go on and look at what exciting opportunities, challenges and experiences await the angler on the Red Deer river the largest Mayfly that hatches on the Red Deer river is the Hexagenia Mayfly the heaviest numbers hatch out in the Stretch of river up towards the Dickson dam. They are present in slow flat stretches where ever the stream bottom is composed mostly of silty/clay base for the nymphs of this insect to burrow into. Although we have seen the odd nymphal shuck from these insects as far downstream as the highway two bridge. It will be interesting to see if this hatch increasingly gets heavier and progresses downstream as time and habitat improve. The angler should spend some time locating these silty/clay based areas and haunt them during the time/period when you expect this huge insect to be hatching out in the heaviest numbers. Remember time spent making sure you have a good imitation (Fly) and being in the right spot at the right time (just at dark) will ensure the most success. This insect along with all the other insects present on this section of the river must have been present previous to the placement of Dickson Dam, but the number of different types and densities of each were not even close to what they are now. All of these hatches are developing exponentially into heavier more dense hatches as each year passes. This section of river has not even begun to reach a shadow of what its full potential will become in the future. If the Red Deer River is properly managed by the Departments that have been tasked with this responsibility, and cared for by the Anglers of Alberta and the world the sky may be the limit.

One important point to remember when dealing with insect hatches is that inclement and nice weather can either advance or delay the hatch for each particular insect. This is in essence due to the increase or decrease of water and air temperatures caused by atmospheric changes, which directly affects the calendar dates when each insect hatches. The insects of early and mid to late summer (especially Mayflies) prefer to hatch during periods of low light and times where direct hot dry sunlight doesn't drain their outer skin of much needed moisture and pliability. This soft moist and pliable outer skin allows the Mayflies to survive for the required time period to develop into a sexually mature adult from Dun to Spinner. The spinner is the last stage of the Mayfly life cycle where they mate and return to the water to lay eggs to begin a new generation of their species. The Mayfly must reach the spinner stage in the life cycle or they cannot mate and reproduce to carry on the next generations of its particular species so they to are weather watchers. In mid summer this means that mid day on those days that are cloudy and or moist usually produce the most condensed or best hatches and dry fly fishing. The other part of the day to watch for is "really late in the evening", on a hot sunny day that has been calm and there is no sign of any wind developing on into the evening.

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This river is fairly shallow with a mixture of relatively fast water and slower type runs and flats that produce many diverse microhabitats, which is why there are so many different types of aquatic insects present. At the same time, it seems to provide the mini habitats and nutrients present in a spring creek, that produces blanket hatches while still providing the fishing that is experienced on a Freestone stream. Look at the large average size of the food forms listed on the hatch chart they are quite large. This situation keeps even the largest trout in the river system keyed to the surface feeding on visible insects all season long from April – September. Even during runoff when the water has less than six inches of visibility these trout still feed on the surface, they have this uncanny ability to locate insects on the surface even during these periods of high dirty water. The trout will move into slow shallow areas with funneling currents and feed on top when heavy hatches occur during high dirty water even in midday. This dirty water appears to offer the fish security with the chance to put on the feedbag and consume large amounts of food with minimal effort in shallow water.

The opportunity to fish during the middle of the day combined with the chance to cast large dry flies allows the angler to participate in the most enjoyable style of fly fishing up on the waters surface. This opportunity to cast large dry flies that float high and dry makes fly location easy and allows the angler to track the path of the floating fly at all times throughout the entire drift. So when the fish engulfs the fly it seems time is frozen and at a later date the angler can time and again picture this event as if it happened today. This is the type of situation most dedicated anglers live for all season long but usually only run into it in special places at magical times. This type of situation is present on the river, which makes it a very special place; many anglers including us have witnessed these situations on a very consistent basis.

This river has a very special place in the hearts of all the regulars that fish it, from the angler that is new to fly-fishing, to the seasoned and more accomplished veteran that has many seasons of chasing, hunting, missing and yes sometimes even hitting and matching less hatches than we care to admit. It just seems that this river is extra kind to every level of angler in the number of hatches it provides, as well as the number of opportunities it presents to hunt huge wonderfully proportioned Brown's on the surface with dry flies. Even some Atlantic salmon anglers that regularly fish the river comment on how big these Browns are and how hard they fight compared to the Atlantic salmon they have fished down home back east. Many a day in the fly shop we have heard anglers stating that these Browns on the Red Deer River are the biggest and most beautiful Browns they have ever caught anywhere. What a river it deserves to be nurtured and preserved for all anglers to enjoy, we are all so lucky to live along the banks of such a wonderful watershed. Anglers that have not had the opportunity to fish this river are really missing out, if you have the time and patience to really get to know this river it will slowly grow on you like no other place you have ever fished.

**\*\*\* Footnote: Hatch chart was kindly supplied by Stream Weaver Flies for the project**