

RECOMMENDED FLIES FOR HALLINGTON

A Month-by-Month Guide

by

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(Revised 2022)

The list below is by no means exclusive, rather it is a starting point for anglers new to Hallington. Many experienced anglers will have most, if not all, of these flies already in their boxes. Beginners on a budget and members who may occasionally struggle to catch should find the list useful as it covers most eventualities at the two reservoirs. All of the flies are available commercially from good tackle shops and by mail order.

Many of the flies listed will catch fish throughout the season, not just in a specific month but I have tried to indicate when they will be most useful. This explains the repetition towards the end of the season. For example, if conditions are right, a G&H Sedge will catch best in August and September but will also work whenever fish are moving at the surface.

Fishing methods are many and varied but in general, lures and wet flies are fished quickly and imitative patterns such as nymphs and pupae more slowly to copy the movement of the naturals. Dry flies fished on the surface may be left motionless or retrieved slowly. For most of the season a floating fly line is all that will be needed but it sometimes helps to get the flies deeper if the weather is cold or if it is hot and bright. Midge-tip, sink-tip and intermediate lines are usually enough for bank fishing but for boat fishing medium and fast-sinking lines can sometimes be useful.

APRIL:

Lures: Humungus, Cat's Whisker, Black Fritz, Viva, Yellow Dancer, Dawson's Olive (all size 10)

Wet Flies: Black Pennel, Blae and Black, Cormorant (10-14)

Imitations: Cased Caddis, Stick fly, App's Bloodworm, Montana Nymph, Gold-ribbed Hare's Ear with gold bead head (10 and 12) Black Midge Pupae (usually called buzzers, 16 to 12), Red Midge Pupa (10).

Dry Flies: Black Gnat, Black Foam Beetle (16 and 14, good throughout the season, use larger sizes as the season progresses), Cow Dung Fly (12).

MAY:

Lures: As April

Wet Flies: Black and Peacock Spider, Bibio, Kate McClaren, Black Snatcher, Alder, (12 and 10)

Imitations: Pheasant Tail Nymph, Gold-ribbed Hare's Ear (14 and 12), Amber Nymph (14-10), Black Midge Pupa, Olive Midge Pupa (10-14), Diawl Bach, Cruncher (12 and 14).

Dry Flies: Black Gnat (16), Double-knotted Black Gnat (14), Hawthorn Fly, Black Hopper (12 and 10), Green Aphid (16), Black Foam Beetle, 'F' Fly, Black Shipman's (12 and 14), Alder (10).

JUNE

Lures: As April, add the Blue-flash Damsel, Orange Fritz Tadpole, Whisky Fly (10).

Wet Flies: Invicta, Silver Invicta, Silver Dabblers, Olive Dabblers, Zulu, Blue Zulu (10 and 12).

Imitations: Damsel nymph (10), Amber Nymph (14-10), Walker's Mayfly Nymph (10), Sinfoil's Fry, Red Holographic Diawl Bach (10 and 12), various midge pupae.

Dry Flies: G&H Sedge (12 and 14), Yellow Aphid (16), Mayfly (10), Grey Duster (16 and 14), Klinkhamer (various colours and sizes).

JULY

Lures: As June, add the White Fritz Tadpole (10).

Wet Flies: As June, add a Peter Ross, Butcher and Bloody Butcher.

Imitations: Sinfoil's Fry (10), various midge pupae, Cove Pheasant Tail Nymph (12 and 10).

Dry Flies: Yellow Aphid, Black Aphid, Black Palmer (16), Olive Shipman's (14 - 10), Bibio Hopper, Bob's Bits (12), Griffith's Gnat (16 and 14), G&H Sedge, Sedgehog (10 and 12).

AUGUST

Lures: White Zonker, White Fritz, Muddler Minnow (10).

Wet Flies: As July

Imitations: As July & May.

Dry Flies: Orange Shipman's (14 - 10), Flying Ant, CDC Shuttlecock (14 and 12), Daddy-long-legs (10), Hopper Popper (12), Black Gnat (16), G&H Sedge, Sedgehog (10 - 12).

SEPTEMBER

Lures: As for August, add a Minky and a Minky Suspender.

Wet Flies: As July.

Imitations: As July & May.

Dry Flies: Various colours of Sedgehogs and G&H Sedges (10 and 12), Brown Foam Beetle (10 and 12), Daddy-long-legs (10).

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Lures: As September, add Grey Zonker (10).

Wet Flies: As July

Imitations: As July and May

Dry Flies: As September. Include some smaller dries such as Black Gnat and a foam beetle, both in size 16.