



Seasonal Guide

Spring - Hatches & Rising Flows

At-a-Glance

- Water: Snowmelt/precip; clearing trends unlock bites mid-day (about 50-55F).
- Hatches: BWOs (16-18), March Browns (10-12), early caddis (14-16), midges; stonefly nymphs move.
- Gear: 9' 5wt; WF floater; add Type 3 sink-tip for streamers.
- Leaders/Tippet: Nymphs 4X-5X fluoro; Dries 5X-6X mono; 12-14' leaders.

Tactics

- Nymphing: Two-fly rigs - tungsten anchor (Perdigon/PT) + BWO or caddis emerger; target soft inside seams.
- Dries: Overcast afternoons; CDC film emergers; long leaders for soft entries.
- Streamers: Sculpins tight to banks as clarity improves; low-and-slow.

Notes

- Carry bright and natural nymph colors; warming trends create short afternoon dry windows.

Summer - Low/Clear & Terrestrials

At-a-Glance

- Water: Lower, clearer; feed early/late; mid-day fish tuck into shade/undercuts.
- Gear: 9' 4-5wt; 12-15' leaders; 6X for flat pools; thermometer in vest.

Tactics

- Dry-Dropper: Foam ants/beetles/hoppers + size 16-20 beadhead 12-24 in below.
- Euro/Sight Nymph: Short drifts in pocket water with slim tungsten flies.
- Surface: Hoppers (8-12) on wind; ants/beetles (14-18) on glassy banks.
- Stillwater: Chironomids/Callibaetis under indicator; small leeches on intermediate.

Ethics

- Avoid trout when water exceeds about 68-70F; fish dawn/dusk; minimize air exposure.

Fall - Cooldown & Baitfish

At-a-Glance

- Water: Cooling temps re-ignite feeding; browns stage to spawn - avoid active redds.
- Gear: 5-6wt; sink-tips (Type 3-6) for streamers; 4X-5X fluoro subsurface.

Tactics

- Streamers: Olive/brown/black articulated; vary cadence (twitch/pause vs. swing).
- Nymphs: Eggs + small mayflies; caddis pupae remain strong.
- Dries: Cloudy BWO days - low-riding emergers.

Notes

- After cold fronts: downsize and slow. Watch for lake-run migrations in bigger rivers.

Winter - Deep/Slow Windows

At-a-Glance

- Water: Stable/cold; fish stack in deep, slow holes; best window mid-day.
- Gear: 4-5wt; indicator or Euro rigs; 5X-6X fluoro; warm layers and studded boots.

Tactics

- Nymphing: Small midges, Baetis, eggs; add shot or 3-4 mm tungsten beads.
- Dries: Midges (18-24) in calm sun; 6X-7X.
- Streamers: Small sculpins; slow swings/short strips near bottom.

Safety

- Shelf/anchor ice hazards; keep fish submerged longer for recovery.