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**Time for the Trico Hatch**

**By Cameron Larsen**

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Ahh, yes. Trico time, the time of year accomplished fly fisherman throw down their rods in disgust. Take up the golf clubs, repaint the house, design the ninth wonder of the world. Anything but test their patience and skill against the dreaded Tricos and the super selective trout that feed on them. Called the `White Winged Devils' in the gentlest of circles, these tiny micro hatches can infuriate the most skilled of the fly fishing angler. Huge lunger trout hunker down in feeding lanes slurping up every Trico spinner except the pattern you are offering to them. And after several hundred tedious passes, after you have lightened your tippet, after you have changed your position after you have done everything but jump in the water and grab the fish with your bare hands, you give up in disgust, and wait for something larger and more tangible to come off the water. A nice Salmonfly hatch would be the ticket. But, alas there are ways to improve your catch rate during these prolific hatches.

About the Trico:

The Tricos are prevalent in a majority of great trout fly fishing streams from Pennsylvania to the west coast. They primarily hatch in the morning, and primarily in the summer. Although the streams of Arizona and New Mexico can have hatches in February. The Trico is tiny, this adds to the frustration of many fly fisher's, it can be as small as size 26 hook, although they primarily are in the 18-22 range. Besides their diminutive size, they can be recognized by their lack of hind wing.

On many rivers the Trico hatch is multigenerational lasting several months into late summer or early fall. So trout see a lot of them, and a few fish get caught, making them even more selective. By far the easiest Trico fishing is the actual spinner fall. After the laying of the eggs, the females die in swarms and fall into the river, and then the males closely follow. Hatching usually takes place early in the morning or late at night. With the spinner falls shortly after daybreak to mid-morning.

Flies:

As we stated above, spinner falls are more important than the actual hatch for fly fishing. Spinner falls happen in clusters and trout crowd into feeding lanes, and can open their mouths and inhale a

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multitude of flies. Here at The Big Y Fly Co. (<http://www.bigflyco.com>) we carry Parachutes and Spinners, in both male (black) and female (cream) colors. The Parachute with their white posts are easier to see, and can be used for the hatch and the spinner fall. They also are more buoyant than the hackle-less spinner.

The Spinner pattern has the advantage of being easier to fish below the surface. During the fall, the Trico's down and fish often slurp up these delicacies below the surface, for safer feeding. Trout are less selective sub-surface and thus it makes for easier imitation as well.

Fishing:

Most fish caught during the Trico hatch are taken fairly close to the angler, twelve to twenty feet.

Accurate casts are required especially during the spinner falls when fish congregate. If casting accurately isn't your forte, then fishing the actual hatch is probably your best bet. Using slower action rods often enhances casting accuracy, and absorb much of the shock when fish strike to protect the tippets. To learn more about rod selection read: <http://www.bigflyco.com/choosingaflyrod.html>.

As mentioned earlier light tippets are the rule. Fishing tiny flies requires a drag free drift, and once hooked fish will need to be finessed or they will break your fly off. Try to lead your fish out of the feeding lanes by pointing your rod tip down and forcing them to shore, thus spooking less fish, and getting your fish into slower water will ease its landing.

Since the Trico hatch is long in many areas the trout become more and more selective. During the spinner fall they will often feed on females (cream color) first and males (black) second. It often pays off to switch flies during the fall, it is often difficult to rationalize, to take the time this requires, when fish are rising everywhere. If you are fortunate enough to have two rods handy, rig them up before hitting the water.

If you are having no luck, try forcing your pattern sub-surface. This works especially well for the Trico Spinner pattern. Fish are often more vicious feeders under the water and less selective. It is often the way fly fishing novice's catch their first trout during the Trico hatch.

Summary:

Perhaps more than any other fly fishing experience, the Trico hatch teaches us patience, perseverance, and the joys of catching fish. Summer is a glorious time to be on the water, and the Trico hatch gives us an excuse to let that paint fade just one more year

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**How to Fish Spring Trout Streams**

**By Frank Faldo**

### **How to Fish Spring Trout Streams by Frank Faldo**

Fishing spring creeks isn't easy. Don't expect large quantities of catches, but do expect a challenging experience which has a certain mystique about it. Catching just a few trout, will give you a feeling of accomplishment.

First, keep in mind that your fishing excursions will be more successful, and you will get many more bites if you use

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Spinfishing is illegal on most spring creeks, but you can use a variety of flyfishing methods such as sight casting to "rooters" burrowing in aquatic plants for scuds, nymphs and sow bugs. You can slap out chunky streamers to tease big fish from deep, dark pools. You can fish terrestrials during no-hatch periods, or you can wait patiently for mayfly emergences, when trout rise furiously all around you.

Delicate presentations are important, so keep your tackle light. Use an eight to nine foot rod taking a No. 4 to 6 weight-forward or double-taper floating line, plus an eight to 14 foot knotless leader tapering to a 4X to 7X tippet is perfect.

Keep in mind that your casting positions can be critical in determining whether your fly is snatched up boldly or ignored on spring creeks. Try different deliveries from several different locations to find which is best. Try quartering upstream across a downstream casts until you get just eh right float to fool a particularly difficult trout.

Know what stage of insect the trout are consuming. This can vary from fish to fish and from minute to minute as the hatch progresses. When the first mayflies appear, most trout feed on the emerging insects drifting in the surface film as they struggle to free themselves from their nymphal skins. Always carry a good supply of emerger imitations when fishing a spring creek hatch.

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