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Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : How long of a leader?

Re: How long of a leader?

Author: : sight\_nymph\_17109

Date: : 2010/4/20 12:43:43

URL:

I think the leader length is determined by where you're fishing and what you're fishing with.

On Clarks, I might fish a 6 1/2' leader if I'm nymphing. Later in the season, I might have a 14' leader and try to drift an ant down onto a fish 50' away.

On the flat water of the upper East Branch of the Delaware, I'll use a 16-20' leader. It's easier to keep 20' of leader in the air than it is to keep 20' of line in the air. The problem then becomes turning the leader over. You have to weight the trade off between getting the leader to turn over / accuracy and quality of drift that you'll get.

If you look on the Cabelas site, they have their tapered leaders in the 'bargain cave'. They are made by Climax. If you get a 4 pack of 7 1/2' and a 4 pack of 9' leaders. I usually buy them in a 3x or 4x and then taper them down myself with tippet material.

Do a little experimenting and figure out what what works best for you. You might find out that you can easily fish a leader between 8 and 10' with dries and 7-8' with nymphs. I'd also suggest using the shortest leader you can get away with. A fish holding in a tough position may call for a very long leader just because you can't get a good drift to him without piling up some slack in the leader.

Good luck and let us know how you make out.