

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Sulphurs

Re: Sulphurs

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URL:

The timing of any particular mayfly hatch isn't driven by recent air or water temperatures. Mayfly nymphs are born from eggs laid when spinning mayflies mate. Those mayfly nymphs are very small and grow gradually over the next twelve months. As the nymphs grow they go through a predetermined series of molts, referred to as instars. The rate at which the mayfly nymph grows and experiences these instars is controlled to a degree by water temperature – not today's or yesterday's or tomorrow's water temperature - but the water temperature range over the twelve month period. In winter the instars practically stop, then accelerate again as water temperatures gradually warm from winter into spring. A sudden warming of air or water doesn't cause the instars to advance rapidly. That's why the nymphs born very early last year didn't emerge exactly twelve months after the eggs hatched.

There will always be subtle (and last year not so subtle) differences in the timing of mayfly emergences, caused by the fact water temperatures vary somewhat from year to year.

Jeff