

Fly of the Month

by Gary Fernandez

Red Quill Dry Fly

Hook: Standard dry fly hook, TMC 100 Size: 12 to 18
Thread: Olive - 6/0 or 8/0
Wing: Lemon Wood Duck or Mallard dyed Wood Duck
Tail: Medium Dun Hackle Fibers or Mayfly Tails
Body: Natural Stripped Coachman Brown Hackle or
D's Quill Body shade #6 Red Quill
Hackle: Medium Dun



Tying Tips

The tying steps for the Red Quill are the same as any other traditional dry fly. Stand and separate the wings, tie in the tails, wrap the body, wrap the hackle and whip finish. The only trick to tying the fly, is in the preparation of the feather quill.

Feather quills are dry and do not stretch. If a feather quill is wrapped dry, it will split or break. Feather quills should be soaked in water for at least 30 minutes before wrapping.

In order to tie a well proportioned quill body, cut off the very fine quill tip and save it for a size #18 or #20 fly. If you are tying a size #12, #14, or #16 Red Quill, use the lower 2/3 of the feather quill. Tie in sized feather quill by the slender tip and wrap forward towards the hook eye. Tie the quill off just behind, but not touching the feather flank wing. Leave enough space behind the wing for three or four turns of hackle.

Fishing tips:

The Red Quill pattern was originated by Art Flick to imitate the mayfly *Ephemerella subvaria*. This mayfly is one of the first to hatch in the Eastern and Midwestern regions of the United States. A Red Quill hatch may be encountered in March, with the major emergence occurring in April and May. In Missouri, the recommended size fly to fish is a #12 or #14. The Red Quill can also be used for any hatch of reddish brown mayflies, in the appropriate size.

The Red Quill is fished dead drift to fish that are rising or suspended in the surface film.