
FLY OF THE MONTH

Green River Cicada / Spruce Bud Moth

This recipe was given to me by a fly fishing camper at the Mustang Ridge Campground in July 2009. I was complaining about how many fish just bump the large foam Boomer's Cicada and quickly learn to reject it on the river. The friendly camper has fished the Green River for the past 29 years and recommends I try this one next year. The cicada pattern is softer than the black foam patterns and is readily taken by the large brown trout and rainbows on the Green River, Utah. He thinks it looks more like a large pine moth more than a cicada, but is taken for both. When the cicadas are buzzing in the trees in camp, the angler recommends casting them to swirling large rainbows in the lake. The area near the cliffs just off the Mustang Ridge boat launch was suggested for 24 to 28 inch lake rainbows.



- Hook:** 2X long dry fly, size 8 or 10. (I used a size 8 TMC 200R)
Thread: Black or olive 6/0
Abdomen: Black fine dubbing - heavy and rounded
Rear hackle: Black or Grizzly spade hackle, reverse wrapped with longer fibers at rear end.
Rib: Copper wire counter- wrapped for durability or the hackle.
Wing: White or cream elk or deer, with two strands of pearl Krystal flash on each side. Well marked deer hair would give the mottled wing of the Spruce Bud Moth.
Head/Thorax: Black fine dubbing covering butts of wing.
Hackle: Long black or grizzly rooster hackle palmered over thorax and clipped flat on the bottom, even with the hook gap.
Rubber legs: Optional black rubber legs can be tied in Madam X style. (Not really needed) Orange and black centiped legs could be used on the larger patterns for the "Magnificent Cicada" on the B section of the river.

A dozen of these flies will use up your supply of fine black dubbing quickly. I would suggest chopping up some inexpensive poly yarn from a fabric store or collecting the dryer lint from washing your black fleece sweat pants or sweat shirts. Save your

\$3.50 packets of black dubbing for smaller flies. Remember two thin layers of dubbing are better than trying to add it all at once. Catch the end of your dubbing noodle with the first two wraps and you can tighten the dubbing noodle to your desired thickness.

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A good tight thread base is important for all flies, but especially important on large flies with wings that will want to turn on the smooth hook. Mount the 2X long hook in the vise and coat the bare hook with a thin drop of head cement. Now make a tight thread base from the eye to the bend. This is a Scot Sanchez trick to help secure materials that will want to move. Attach a three inch length of copper wire at the bend for the future rib. You may attach the black hackle now or after the dubbing. The person that told me the recipe said he first applied a generous black abdomen and then attached the hackle at the mid point of the hook shank. Attach it at the middle by the small tip end and spiral wrap it back to the hook bend. Secure the heavier feather quill at the bend with two wraps of wire and then counter wrap the wire over the hackle for durability. He wants the longer barbs of the hackle to be at the rear of the fly. The hackle should be sized to produce barbs long enough to extend to the point of the hook. Trim off the excess hackle stem. (I found it easier to attach the hackle at the bend and then dub the abdomen.)

At the mid shank tie off and trim the copper wire. Make a little tight thread base for the wing attachment. Remember it is always better to tie your wings and slippery material onto a hard base rather than trying to attach over soft dubbing or foam. I added two strands of Pearl Krystal Flash on each side as an underwing. The camper did not mention flash in his recipe, but I find I like the extra sparkle and Gary LaFontaine added it to many of his patterns to make the "Fluttering Wing

Impression." Select a small bunch of white or cream elk hair or deer hair. It should have 40 or more fibers and be long enough to reach the bend of the hook. Clean and stack the elk hair. Attach the wing on top of the hook, just in front of the abdomen. I usually trim the wings to length before I attach them, eliminating the need to trim the butts on the fly. A small drop of head cement or super glue on these thread wraps can not hurt. Select and attach another large rooster hackle. The barbs can be 1.5 to 2 hook gaps long. Attach it by the butt end to have the longest barbs at mid point. Wax your thread and apply another generous amount of black or olive dubbing for the thorax. The thorax should be at least 3/8 inch in diameter. Do not crowd the eye with dubbing. Palmer wrap the front hackle over the dubbing pulling it slightly into the soft dubbing. Tie off the hackle behind the eye. Remember to pull back the tip of the hackle and lock it down. Trim excess hackle and form a small thread head.

The next step is to remove the fly from the vise and trim off the bottom of the front hackle so that the fly lays flat on the water and the body shape is visible. The long hackle on each side will represent the legs. On some flies you could add black rubber legs, Madam X style at the wing attachment. The camper said that most of the time he does not add the rubber legs. You could add Orange and Black Centipede legs, and tie it with orange thread, if you were going to fish the B section of the river and needed to match the Magnificent Cicada. Use a size 6 or 4 hook for this giant cicada with orange legs.

