

**Fly of the Month**  
September 2017

**Easy Baetis Cripple**  
By  
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## Recipe

Hook – 1x long dry fly hook – 18 and 20

Thread – Veevus 16/0 – Olive

Tail (trailing shuck) – Insect brown Zelon

Body – Superfine dubbing – BWO

Wing – McFlyon or Enrico Puglisi EP-Fibers, White, gray or black

Hackle – Medium dun saddle or rooster hackle

Blue Wing Olive (Baetis) season is just around the corner and is regarded by experienced fly fishers as one the most prolific hatches of the year. Baetis hatch twice yearly – spring and fall and both hatches occur virtually every day in some form making them almost continuously available to the fly fisher. I fish the cripple version of the Baetis both early and late in the hatch switching to the Baetis dun at the peak of the hatch. Trout seem to prefer the cripple and apparently know from experience that cripples can't fly away and thus are easy and reliable prey.

I have tied and fished dozens of Baetis patterns but rely on the cripple for 90% of my fall dry fly fishing. This pattern is my own but not unique – this one just happens to be simple and easy to tie. I tie it in three versions. The gray wing version is my preferred color when visibility is good. I switch to the white wing version if I need a version I can see when visibility is poor. The black version is helpful when faced with a flat light situation.

The tying process is straight forward – tie in the shuck, then a tapered body. Tie in the wing two eye lengths behind the eye, finally tie in the hackle with two turns over the wing tie in point and one turn forward of the wing. Trim the hackle even with the bottom of the hook.

Apply floatant **ONLY** to the hackle and wing. Moisten the body and tail with saliva (the fly floats wing up and hook point down)

**Now, go fish!!!!**