

What's the Buzz about Midges and Mayflies?



Important Information:	Midges (photos above)	Mayflies (photos below)
When do they emerge?	Late spring and fall	Beginning in early June
What factors are necessary for them to emerge?	Lake Erie's water temperature must be roughly 60°F	Mayflies require high levels of oxygen, neutral pH levels, and cold water.
What type of water quality do these insects indicate?	Depending on the species, midges can actually indicate poor water quality as they can tolerate high pollutant loads and low dissolved oxygen levels.	Mayflies are very sensitive to pollution, so the presence of mayflies indicates good water quality: low pollutants, low temperatures, and high oxygen levels!
What is their role in the ecosystem?	Midges help clean the environment by consuming and recycling organic debris, and they also serve as an excellent food source for frogs, fish, birds, and bats.	Mayflies serve as a great prey source for walleye, perch, and bass as well as onshore birds.
How long do they live?	Two weeks, and only 3-5 days as adults	1-2 years, but mayflies only live outside of the bottom of lakes for 1-3 days as adults!
Fun Fact:	There are about 10,000 species of midges worldwide!	As larvae, mayflies live within the sediment in the bottom of Lake Erie for 1-2 years!

