

# Dragonfly spotter sheet

## Want to become an instant dragon-spotting expert?

10 of the most common dragonflies and damselflies in the UK are listed below - so head to your nearest wetland and see what you can spot!



✓ **Common hawker**

- Fast and powerful in flight
- Perch on branches
- Hard to approach – they see you coming
- Emerge July to September, flight season continues until November
- Lives in moorland with acidic pools



✓ **Emperor dragonfly**

- Patrol ponds several metres above the water
- Agile in the air
- Emerge from water after sunset and fly just before dawn
- Flight season is May to September
- They regularly chase other males



✓ **Four spotted chaser**

- Males fly out and return to the same perch
- There are sometimes evening swarms over water
- Dark spot on each wing – this is why its called a four spotted chaser
- Emerge in May and June in morning and late summer
- Look at the margins of shallow pools and lakes



✓ **Black darter**

- Erratic flight
- Emerges late June to early October
- Black markings are a thermo-regulatory function in cold weather
- Males are not territorial
- Likes peat moss, bog pools and ditches





✓ **Common darter**

- Perches on the ground and returns to same spot
- Emerge early morning during April-October
- Likes small garden ponds and even semi-salty water



✓ **Emerald damselfly**

- Perches with wings half open like rushes and reeds
- Perches in dense vegetation by shallow pools
- Likes standing water, ponds and ditches
- Emerge late June



✓ **Large red damselfly**

- Often have territorial disputes – males fly out to investigate other dragonflies
- Often seen in sunny woodlands, avoids fast flowing water
- Males emerge before female



✓ **Blue tailed damselfly**

- Variety of thorax colour forms-red, violet, blue, green
- Colonises new ponds early
- Often emerge upside down
- Emerge mid June and July/August
- Can eat spiders from webs
- Not to be confused with the scarce blue - there is a different tail spot



✓ **Common blue damselfly**

- Its habitat is around slow water
- Emerge April to August
- Perch on low veg and fly off in pursuit of passing prey
- Pounce on insects
- Likes larger lakes
- Easily confused with azure



✓ **Azure damselfly**

- Sensitive to pollution
- Emerge early May to mid-June and their flight season lasts until September
- 95% population emerge in 3 weeks
- They fly in the day and at night
- They are 'sit and wait' predators
- Females emerge before males