

Spiders

Spiders are arthropods. Spiders have two body regions: the cephalothorax (head fused with thorax) and abdomen (sac-like and unsegmented). Spiders have 8 legs, a pair of jaws a pair of feeler-like pedipalps, one on either side of the jaws, and either 8 eyes or, less commonly, 6 eyes. All spiders are predators and produce venom with which they subdue their prey and defend themselves.

Habits:

Spiders often are categorized on the basis of how they capture prey. Those which rely upon silken webs, capture prey by ensnarement. Spiders that wander about searching for prey are active hunters. Finally, spiders that rely on stealth, waiting for prey to approach unawares, are passive hunters. Favorite prey includes most soft-bodied insects, such as flies, moths, mayflies, crickets, cockroaches and silverfish, as well as other spiders.

Protection measures:

A noticeable reduction in spider invasion can be accomplished by:

- pruning tree and shrub branches away from building surfaces to prevent bridging
- eliminating tall and dense vegetation close to the foundation which serve as harborage for spiders and their prey
- replacing white exterior lighting with amber-colored lamps (thereby attracting fewer night-flying insects to porches and garages, the abundance of which spiders favor
- excluding gaps under doors (by replacing or adding door sweeps), lower courses of siding (using silicone sealer), around utility penetrations (using builders putty) and weep holes in brick veneer.
- capturing wandering spiders on ground level, in basements and in attached garages by placing sticky traps (glue boards) indoors along walls behind furniture, washer, dryer, sump pump, water heater, furnace, commode, and storage (out of reach of children and pets)
- removal using a shop vacuum cleaner or household vacuum fitted with a hose attachment; this is useful for removing spider webs as well.