

SPIDERS

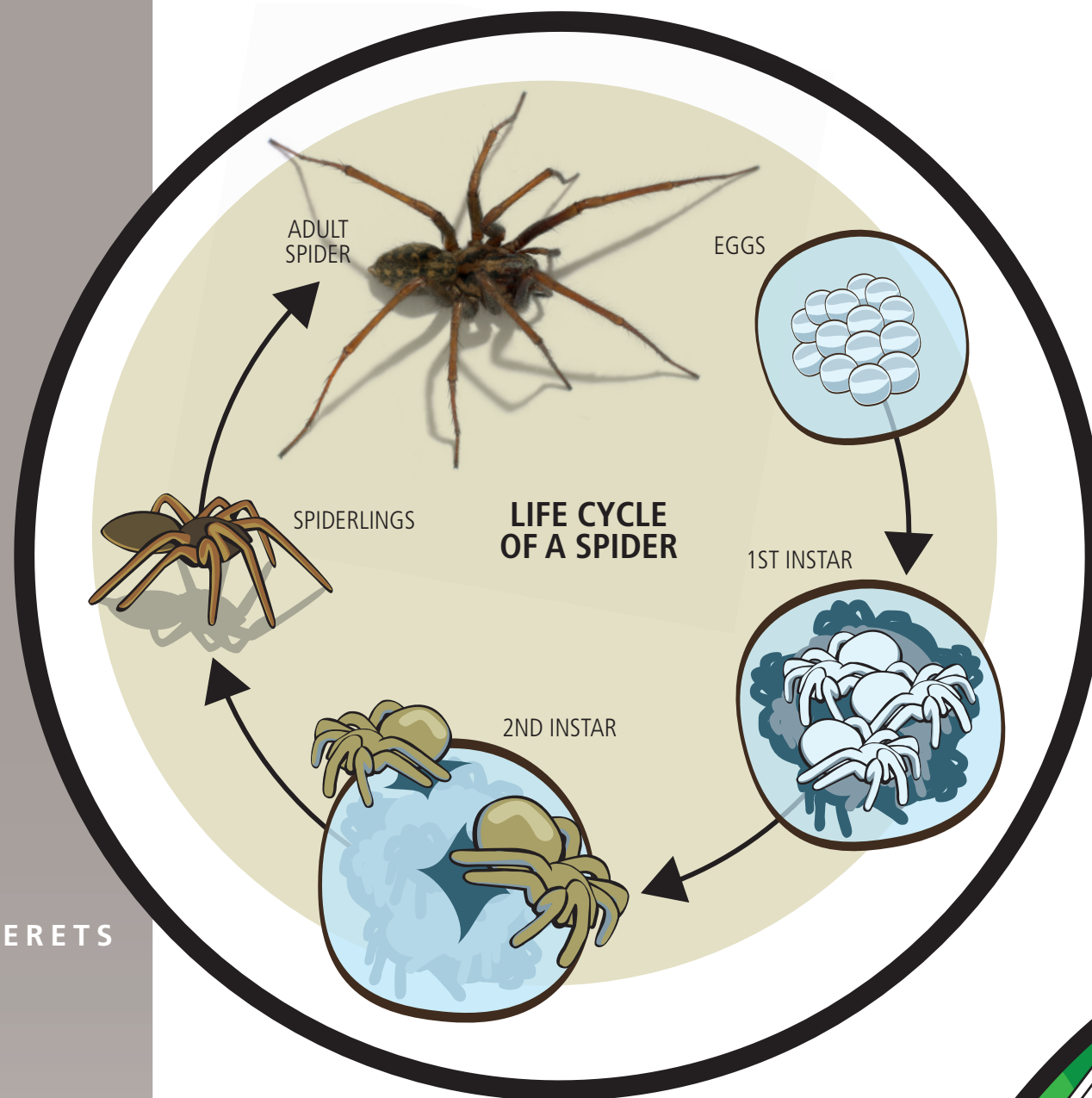
CLASS: ARACHNIDA
ORDER: ARANEAE

There are more than 40,000 species of spiders in the world, with approximately 3,700 found in North America. Spiders play an important role in nature, ensuring that insect populations stay in check. In fact, spiders in or around a home are an indication that a large insect population inhabits the area.



DESCRIPTION

Spiders have two major body regions – a fused head and thorax called the cephalothorax and an abdomen – as opposed to insects with three body regions. There is constriction between the cephalothorax and the abdomen appearing as a “waist,” separating spiders from other arachnids (mites and ticks). Spiders have eight walking legs, a pair of leg-like appendages (pedipalps), along with a pair of fang-like appendages (chelicerae, “jaws”). They range in size from the very small sheetweb weaver spider (*Spirembolus erratus*), measuring less than 1 mm in body length, to the large goliath birdeater tarantula (*Theraphosa blondi*), which has a 12-inch leg span. Despite the perception of spiders by some of the public, many rank among the most beautiful creatures on earth, exhibiting a variety of colors and distinctive markings.



LIFE CYCLE

Most spiders form egg sacs made of silk and go through direct development. When they emerge, usually by chewing their way through the egg sac wall, they are 2nd instar spiderlings and appear as miniature adults. The spiderlings go through several molts until they become adults. Many female spiders care for their young by carrying them on their bodies or feeding them, though some disperse immediately. Most spiders live one or two years, but female tarantulas have lived 20+ years in captivity.

CONTROL STRATEGIES

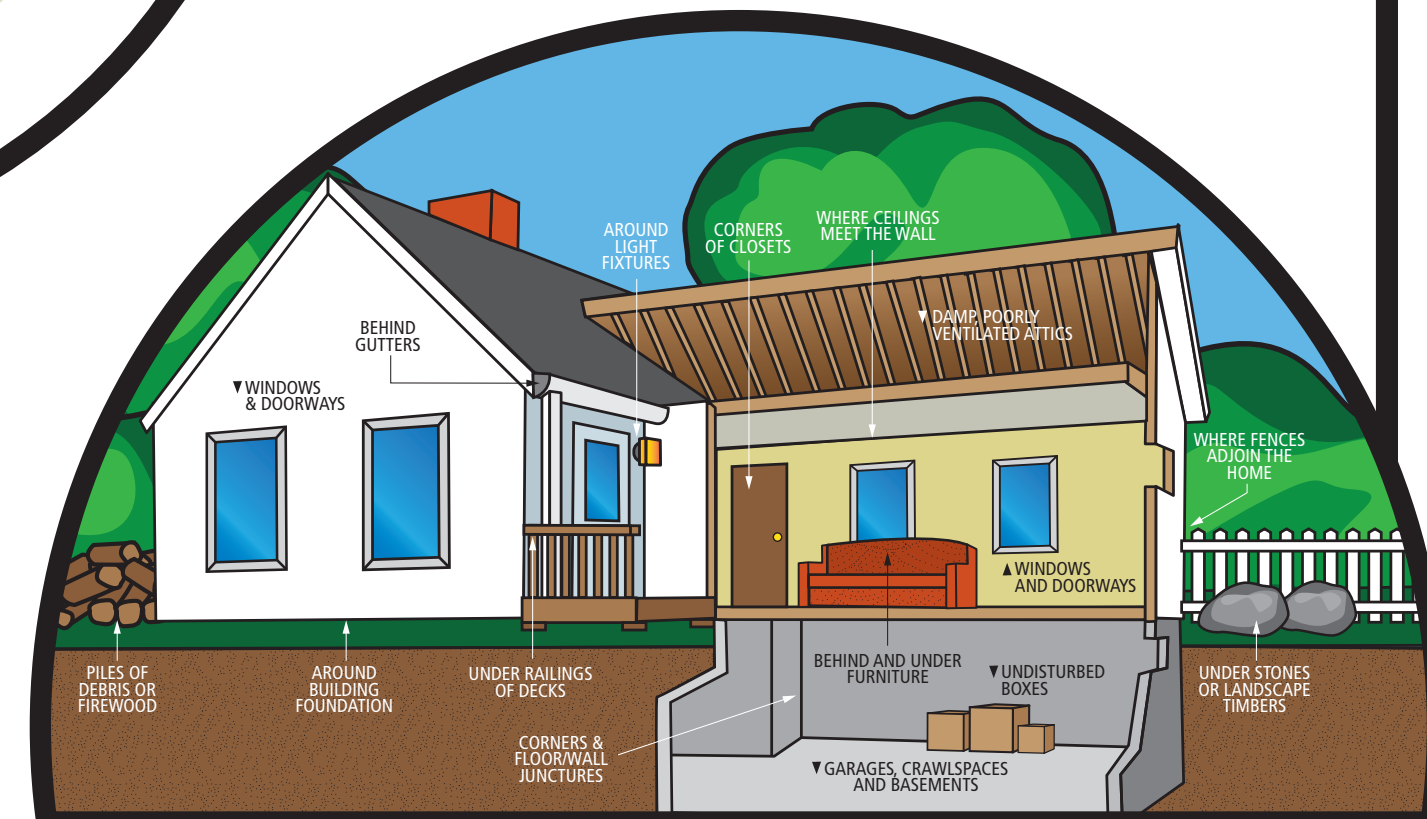
Successful spider control requires a multi-pronged approach including:

- INSPECTION
- IDENTIFICATION
- NON-CHEMICAL CONTROLS
- SANITATION
- EXCLUSION
- INSECTICIDE APPLICATIONS
- ADDRESSING EXTERIOR LIGHTING ISSUES THAT ATTRACT SPIDER FOOD

FEEDING BEHAVIOR

Almost all spiders are predators, mostly on other arthropods, using their venom to paralyze and eventually kill their prey. Active hunters may have a retreat they return to on a regular basis, but these spiders are extremely mobile as they search out prey. Passive hunters, on the other hand, sit and wait in areas where their prey are active, waiting for the right moment to capture prey. Web-builders use a variety of silk web designs to capture their prey.

- 1 ACTIVE HUNTERS:**
Wolf spiders, ground spiders, jumping spiders
- 2 PASSIVE HUNTERS:**
Crab spiders, recluse spiders
- 3 WEB-BUILDERS:**
Orb weavers, cobweb weavers, cellar spiders



COMMON HARBORAGE SITES

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| <p>INSIDE STRUCTURES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CORNERS OF FLOOR/WALL JUNCTURES • BEHIND AND UNDER FURNITURE • WHERE CEILINGS MEET THE WALL • CORNERS OF CLOSETS • WINDOWS AND DOORWAYS • BEHIND TOILETS • GARAGES, CRAWLSPACES & BASEMENTS • UNDISTURBED BOXES • DAMP, POORLY VENTILATED ATTICS | <p>OUTSIDE STRUCTURES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WINDOWS AND DOORWAYS • BEHIND GUTTERS • UNDER RAILINGS OF DECKS • WHERE FENCES ADJOIN THE HOME • AROUND LIGHT FIXTURES • PILES OF DEBRIS OR FIREWOOD • UNDER STONES OR LANDSCAPE TIMBERS • AROUND BUILDING FOUNDATION • WITHIN THICK GROUND COVER & LEAF LITTER • GARDENS • GARDEN PLANTS • SHEDS |
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