



Oklahoma School IPM

Common Spiders



There are many species of spiders. They are placed in "groups". Common groups include wolf, jumping, and tarantula spiders.

Spiders have two body parts and eight legs. All spiders have venom that kills their prey. People have varying reactions to spider bites depending upon their susceptibility of the poison. In Oklahoma, the brown recluse and black widow spiders are most harmful. Refer to the Brown Recluse and Black Widow tip sheets for more information on these two spiders.



Tarantula



Wolf Spider



Jumping Spiders

Wolf spiders are $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 2 inches long, hairy, and usually brown to gray, with various markings or lines. They look for a warm place to over winter in the fall. They are found around doors, windows, house plants, basements, and garages. They roam at night to hunt for food and do not spin a web. The wolf spider is shy and runs away when disturbed. Wolf spider mothers carry large egg sacs. When the young spiderlings hatch, they climb on their mother's back and ride until partially grown.

Jumping spiders are small to medium in size. They have stout bodies and short legs. These spiders have a distinctive eye patten, composed of three or four pairs, with the largest pair in the center. Their body is hairy and often brightly colored or iridescent.

Jumping spiders forage for prey in the daytime on

windows, walls, or other areas where insect prey is drawn. They slowly approach prey and when it is close, they make a sudden leap on it. Before jumping, they attach a silken thread or safety line climb back if they miss their target.

Tarantulas are the largest spiders in Oklahoma. Their body is 2 inches long and leg span is 6 inches. They are brown and black in color, stout-bodied, and covered with hollow, needle-like, barbed hairs, especially on the abdomen. Some people develop hypersensitivity reactions to body hairs.

Tarantulas are active from June to October (commonly seen in June and September). They feed on live animals they can catch including crickets, beetles, and grasshoppers.

Females are mostly nocturnal and hide during the day in the ground. Males look for females and can be seen in the day. Females may live for 15-20 years. The bite of our tarantula is no more harmful than a bee sting.

Building Maintenance: Spiders are predators and search for food (insects). Report webbing and dead insects to the pest management coordinator. Check plants before bringing them inside for the winter. Prevent spiders from entering buildings. Use weather stripping and caulk to seal cracks and other openings. Vacuum webbing and egg sacs (balls of webbing). Keep areas organized. Store classrooms supplies away from walls for easy inspections.

Pesticides: Do not spray spiders with pesticides. The pest management professional will treat for spiders depending on the severity and situation.

