

Spiders

Spiders are mostly beneficial because they feed on pest insects. However, many people think that all spiders are dangerous and aggressive. In California, the main spider capable of causing serious injury is the black widow, which generally remains outdoors and out of sight. Spiders seen out in the open during the day are unlikely to bite people. Focus pest management efforts on removing webs and hiding places. Pesticides are not generally recommended.

What to know about spiders:

- ◆ **In California, the main spider capable of causing serious injury is the black widow:**
 - The poisonous black widow spider is commonly found outdoors, in sheltered, dry, undisturbed areas such as wood piles.
 - Female black widows have shiny black bodies with a red hourglass marking on the underside.
 - Only large female black widows can injure people.
 - Anyone bitten by a black widow spider should remain calm and seek medical advice, or call California's poison control center at 1-800-8-POISON.
- ◆ **The brown recluse spider does not live in California.**
- ◆ **The jaws of most spiders are too small to bite humans.**
- ◆ **Some other spiders bite when trapped in clothing, but the reaction is usually no more severe than itching or a bee sting. See www.ipm.ucdavis.edu for more information about these spiders.**

To prevent spiders from entering your house, take these steps:

- ◆ **Seal home foundation cracks and other access holes.**
- ◆ **Inspect window and door screens for good seals that keep out spiders and the insects they prey on.**
- ◆ **Keep areas around home foundations free of clutter.**



Manage spiders using these tips:

- ◆ Indoors, regular housecleaning provides adequate spider control.
- ◆ Vacuum up the spider and its web.
- ◆ Prevent clutter buildup that can provide hiding places.
- ◆ Remove spider webs from the exterior of the house with a broom or high pressure hose.
- ◆ Indoors, squash spiders or capture them in a jar and release them outdoors.

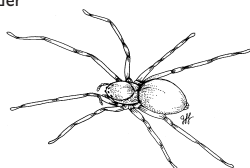
When removing spiders, don't overlook the fact that spiders eat a large number and variety of nuisance and pest insects. Spiders also have natural enemies — wasps, other spiders, birds, reptiles, and others — that sometimes keep them from becoming too numerous.



black widow spider



longbodied cellar spider



yellow sac spider

—PROTECT YOUR WATER—

To eliminate runoff to storm drains and protect our creeks, rivers and the ocean, minimize the use of pesticides and follow proper use and disposal practices. Whenever possible, use non-chemical alternatives or less toxic pesticide products.

For more information, contact the **University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Orange County** Hotline: (714) 708-1646 or ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com or visit www.uccemg.com and www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.



What you use in your garden affects our creeks, lakes, and rivers!