

Beneficial Species Profile



Photo credit: Josh Shoemaker

Common Name: Banded garden spider (Banded Argiope)

Scientific Name: *Argiope trifasciata*

Order and Family: Araneae: Araneidae

Size and Appearance:

The banded garden spider is black, silvery and yellow, with lines, or bands, crossing its abdomen. The legs are often held in pairs. It spins a flat orb web. Webs sometimes contain a prominent vertical zigzag. The males are much smaller and less colorful.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	Egg sac about 18 mm diameter	Cream colored and flat on the top; may contain more than 1000 eggs.
Larva/Nymph	Smaller than adults	Immatures look like small adults.
Adult	Total body length (not including legs) F: 15 – 25 mm M: 4.0 – 5.5 mm	The cephalothorax of this spider is silvery. The abdomen has crossing black lines with silver or yellow bands in between. Some females can be densely haired, making the bands indistinct.
Pupa (if applicable)		N/A

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Spiders digest their prey outside the body. This is done by regurgitating digestive fluid into the prey. The dissolved tissue of the prey is then sucked up through the mouth. Argiope spiders generally first wrap their prey, then inject venom and digestive fluids once it is immobilized. Some spiders, including orbweavers, use their chelicerae to mash their prey as they eat.

Host/s:

This spider feeds on insects that become trapped in its web. Spiders in the family Araneidae have relatively poor vision and use vibration to sense their prey.

Description of Benefits:

Banded garden spiders can be found in fields with tall grass, shrub areas and gardens across the US. They feed mainly on insects, including many considered pests, such as moths, mosquitoes and flies.

References:

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