

Pest Profile



Photo credit: "Golden Orb Weaver" By i am jim via Wikimedia Commons

Common Name: Orb Weaver Spider

Scientific Name: *Araneidae spp.*

Order and Family: Araneae: Araneidae

Size and Appearance: Orb Spiders cover a large group of spiders featured on nearly every continent. Known for their "orb" shape, they often have distinctive, colorful markings on cephalothorax. They also have the distinction of being one of the largest non-tarantulas in the United States at 24 mm to 40 mm in length. Females usually have yellow spots on a dull colored body, very long legs, and silvery sheen. Males are much smaller, barely reaching 6 mm in length and sporting a dark brown coloration.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	2.5 mm in diameter (sac)	Eggs are laid in the fall and the sac (2.5 mm diameter) is usually hung in trees near the web. Females lay up to several hundred at a time.
Larva/Nymph	1-40 mm depending on molt and sex	Spiderlings resemble the adults.
Adult	Females: 24-40 mm Males: > 6 mm	Females are large at 40 mm in length, long brown legs, usually showy coloring on abdomen. Males dark brown, small.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host/s or Prey: *Araneidae spp.* feeds on small invertebrates.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Orb Weavers are commonly seen in home gardens, where they set up elaborate webs to trap prey. Generally, they do not come indoors and are mostly a nuisance pest due to their startling size and large webs.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Spiders- Orb Weaver Spiders. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (8.4.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Weems, H.V., Edwards, G.B. (2001). Orb Weaver Spiders; Golden Silk Spider. University of Florida Extension. Retrieved on July 4th, 2016 from http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/golden_silk_spider.htm