

# Pest Profile



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**Common Name:** Wolf Spider

**Scientific Name:** *Lycosa spp.*

**Order and Family:** Araneae: Lycosidae

**Size and Appearance:** There are over 30 species of Wolf Spiders present in the United States. They are recognizable by their hairy appearance and larger size. Generally, females are about 9-35 mm in length while males are a bit smaller at 6-20 mm in length. Color varies by species but tends to fall on the side of being a darker shade of brown, often with paler colored stripes or other markings. They have 8 eyes, large chelicerae, spinnerets on abdomen, long legs, and clawed tarsi.

	<b>Length (mm)</b>	<b>Appearance</b>
<b>Egg</b>	< 0.01 mm	Females produce an egg sac which is carried on the spinnerets until deposited in June. The sac contains 100-135 eggs. She carries the spider hatchlings on her back for safety.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1-30 mm depending on molt and sex	Spiderlings resemble the adults with less hairy appearance. They are fully developed prior to Winter the year they hatch.
<b>Adult</b>	Females: 9-35 mm Males: 6-20 mm	Females larger than males. Dark in color with lighter colored stripes or markings. 8 distinct eyes, large mouthparts, spinnerets on abdomen, and clawed tarsi.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

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

**Host/s or Prey:** *Lycosa spp.* feed on smaller arthropods.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Wolf Spiders do not cause physical damage and are nuisance pests. They can bite humans if handled directly, which will result in redness, pain, and swelling. Certain individuals may be more susceptible to the venom than others.

**References:**

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Occasional Invaders- Wolf Spider. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (7.11.1). National Pest Management Association International.

Jacobs, S. (March 2002). Wolf Spiders. Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Entomology. Retrieved on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/wolf-spiders>