

Orb Weaver Spider



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

ORB WEAVER SPIDER

FAMILY: Araneidae

ORDER: Arachnida

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 1/4 inch (male); 3/8 - 3/4 inch (female)
- ◆ brown or orangish often with distinct and colorful patterns
- ◆ two body parts, abdomen (rounded) and head with 8 eyes
- ◆ 8 segmented legs
- ◆ webs are like a wagon wheel with spokes and concentric circles



Where to Look:

Orb Weavers are widespread and found just about anywhere including gardens, woods, fields and buildings.

Who Eats It?

The primary enemy of orb weaver spiders are birds and parasitic wasps.



LIFE CYCLE

The female spider lays many eggs. The young look just like the adults. Some species actually care for and feed their young. When the young leave they web they spin out on a long strand of silk and catch the wind like tiny balloons.

What It Eats.

Orb Weavers eat live insects and other spiders which they catch in their sticky web.

Role in the Ecosystem

The primary role of orb weaver spiders is population control.



Did You Know

Orb Weavers eat their web every night and build a new one. The old web provides the spider with protein.