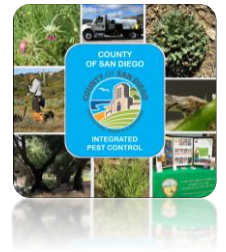




Integrated Pest Control Solutions

County of San Diego, Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures
Integrated Pest Control Program
Providing Safe and Effective Pest Management using the least toxic methods
ipc.awm@sdcounty.ca.gov



Spiders of San Diego County

There are many types of spiders commonly found in the garden or landscape in Southern California. Spiders, often misunderstood and feared, play a crucial role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and offer a few surprising benefits to humans and the environment. By preying on various pest insects, spiders help reduce the need for chemical pesticides, which can harm the environment and human health.

Common Spiders found in San Diego County



Brown Widow

Characteristics: The Brown Widow, a newly introduced species that became established in Southern California in early 2000. The easiest way to tell a brown widow from a black widow is the egg sac. The brown widow is round with little silk spikes sticking out.

Facts: Mature females can lay about 20 egg sacks and up to 3,000 eggs during their lifetime.



Black Widow

Characteristics: Female black widow spiders are typically shiny black in color when they are full grown, usually exhibiting a red or orange hourglass on the underside of the abdomen. They prefer to occupy low to the ground exterior locations. The egg sac of the western black widow is round and smooth.

Facts: The bite of a black widow may be painful, or it may go unnoticed. Seek medical advice from your doctor.



Orb Weaver Spiders (Garden Spiders)

Characteristics: Orb weavers are common in San Diego and come in a variety of colors. Most consume their webs each night, leaving only the anchor threads, hiding during the day, and rebuilding them in the evening. After building their large circular webs between trees and structures, they typically wait at the center, facing downward.

Facts: While orb weavers are venomous, meaning they use venom to subdue their prey, they are not considered dangerous to humans or pets. They are also the type of spider that inspired *Charlotte's Web*.



Jumping Spiders

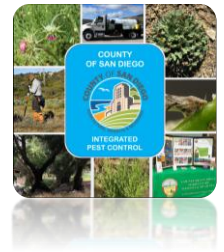
Characteristics: Jumping spiders are a type of spider that gets its common name from its ability to jump, which it uses to catch prey. 300 species are found in the United States. Unlike most spiders, jumping spiders are active during the daytime and prefer sunshine.

Facts: Jumping spiders will bite in defense, but their bite is not venomous.



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IPM to encourage and keep beneficial spiders in your garden

- Implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan focused on keeping and attracting spiders by prioritize habitat creation and minimize pesticide use.
- Place a layer of mulch or grass clipping around plants for ground spiders to hide in.
- Do not remove spider webs.
- Place unused plant pots on their side around your garden and landscape areas to increase habitats for spiders.

Want to learn more about local spiders?



[UC Riverside – How to Identify Widow Spiders](#)



[Common Spiders in California](#)

AWM's Integrated Pest Control (IPC) Program contributes to a safe and healthy work environment by providing safe and effective structural pest control at County facilities. IPC also conducts various weeds control activities to preserve road visibility and clearance, reduce fire danger, enhance drainage to prevent flooding, and help protect the region's biodiversity.

FY 24/25		Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
Type of Pesticide		Quantity	Treatment Description	Quantity	Treatment Description	Quantity	Treatment Description	Quantity	Treatment Description
Herbicides									
	Dry	2.5 lbs.	468	64.5 lbs.	171	0 lbs.	716	0 lbs.	462
	Liquid	412 gallons	acres	103 gallons	acres	355 gallons	acres	297 gallons	acres
Insecticides									
	Dry	16 lbs.	485	4.6 lbs.	211	3.4 lbs.	151	15.9 lbs.	270
	Liquid	6 gallons	applications	4.5 gallons	applications	4.6 gallons	applications	8.3 gallons	applications
Rodenticide									
	Dry	236 lbs.	600 stations	154 lbs.	620 stations	105 lbs.	630 stations	100 lbs.	634 stations
Non-Chemical									
	Traps	3,405	160 facilities	2,585	124 facilities	2,175	208 facilities	3,222	129 facilities

Table 1. Amount of pesticides applied by IPC per quarter.