

Spider identification chart

Six regional examples | Eastern United States, with a Mid-Atlantic focus | Online Field Guide

Use markings and web type together. Similar brown spiders may remain identifiable only to a group.

1. Yellow garden spider

Argiope aurantia

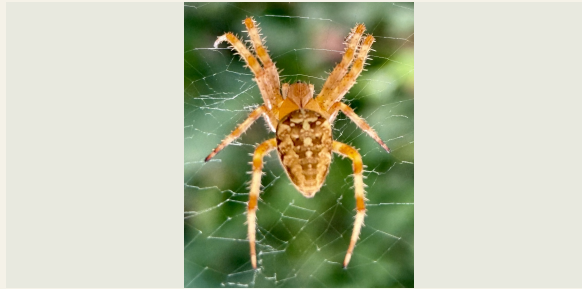


Yellow-and-black abdomen; large vertical orb web

Black-yellow abdomen; side view

2. Cross orbweaver

Araneus diadematus



Pale dots form a cross on a rounded abdomen

Dorsal view; white cross

3. Bold jumping spider

Phidippus audax



Stocky dark jumper; three pale abdominal spots

Adult; eyes, green jaws and pale abdomen spots

4. Dark fishing spider

Dolomedes tenebrosus



Large brown-gray hunter with banded legs

Dorsal view; legs spread

5. Common house spider

Parasteatoda tepidariorum



Rounded mottled abdomen; irregular tangled web

Rounded abdomen; side view

6. Grass spiders

Agelenopsis species



Sheet web with a funnel; long rear spinnerets

Grass spider specimen; dorsal view

1. Karen McCabe
2. Chuck Wilson
3. dhasdf; CC BY 4.0.
4. adrozdownicz
5. Kirill Levchenko
6. Brendan O'Loughlin; CC BY 4.0.

Comparison notes and photo credits

Spider chart companion | Original layout and wording by Online Field Guide

Spider	Habitat clue	Identification level	Adult activity
Yellow garden spider	Sunny gardens, tall weeds and shrubs	Species candidate	Late summer and fall
Cross orbweaver	Gardens, shrubs and building exteriors	Species candidate	Late summer and fall
Bold jumping spider	Fences, walls, plants and open ground	Species candidate	Spring through fall
Dark fishing spider	Woodlands, tree trunks and nearby buildings	Dolomedes candidate	Adults spring through late summer
Common house spider	Building corners, sheds and sheltered outdoor sites	Cobweb-spider candidate	Warm months; indoors year-round
Grass spiders	Grass, shrubs and groundcover; sheet webs	Genus or group	Late summer and fall

Season describes broad regional adult activity. Indoor conditions can extend sightings, and immature spiders may appear outside these periods. Web shape is useful only when the spider was actually using the web.

Photo credits and original file links

1. **Yellow garden spider:** *Argiope aurantia* - iNaturalist photo 557264405, by Karen McCabe.
2. **Cross orbweaver:** *Araneus diadematus* - iNaturalist photo 565480914, by Chuck Wilson.
3. **Bold jumping spider:** *Phidippus audax* - iNaturalist photo 336250949, by dhasdf. CC BY 4.0.
4. **Dark fishing spider:** *Dolomedes tenebrosus* - iNaturalist photo 65798713, by adrozdownicz.
5. **Common house spider:** *Parasteatoda tepidariorum* - iNaturalist photo 407445900, by Kirill Levchenko.
6. **Grass spiders:** *Agelenopsis pennsylvanica* - iNaturalist photo 576160123, by Brendan O'Loughlin. CC BY 4.0.

Identification references: Yellow garden spider; Cross orbweaver; Bold jumping spider; Dark fishing spider; Common house spider; Grass spiders.

This chart compares regional examples; it is not a complete species key.