Webinar: A Guide to Identifying Spiders by Their Webs

There are hundreds of different species of spiders in the U.S. and many create unique webs that are specially designed to catch their webs. So if you can recognize the web you’re seeing, you can identify the type of spider. Here are a few kinds of spider webs you may see.

**Orb Web**

This web has a very strong frame, formed by long strands (or spokes), that are joined in the center of the web. Sticky droplets coat the threads, making them perfectly designed to catch flying insects.

Species: Orb-Weaver

**Triangle Web**

These webs have 2 anchor points at one end, and 1 long strand attached to a sturdy object, where the spider sits. The thread of the web is fuzzy, so that insects become quickly entangled. Some species use the web like a catapult by spinning the web so tight, that when an insect hits the threads, the spider is thrown forward onto the prey.

Species: Triangle-weaver spiders

**Funnel Web**

These webs are spun in crevices and are made of sheets of silk that meet in the middle to form the funnel. The web is not sticky, but tangles easily so that prey that walks across it are quickly trapped.

Species: Funnel-weavers and Grass Spiders

**Tangle Web / Cobweb**

The top of these webs are attached to a strong object, and the strands are stretched tight below. The threads are covered in sticky droplets so that when an insect walking below the web touches a thread, it snaps the tight strands and the insect is pulled into the sticky web.

Species: House spiders and black widows

**Sheet Web**

Sheet webs are usually strung on top of plants, and like funnel webs, the silk in sheet webs is not sticky, but instead catches insects that land on the web, or fall onto it by tangling prey tightly in the threads. The prey then falls down to the lower side of the web where the spider is waiting.

Species: Sheet-web weaver