



Wolf Spiders and Fishing Spiders

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Wolf Spiders

Description: Wolf spiders are usually large, hairy spiders that are not associated with webs. Color ranges from tan to dark brown and often have stripes running the length of the body. Order: Araneae;, Family: Lycosidae.

Habitat: Common household pest in the fall when they are looking for a warm place for winter; found around doors, windows, houseplants, basements and garages. Outside they will be found on the ground looking for insects to feed upon.



Wolf spider adult. David Cappeart, MSU, Bugwood.org

Control: A general spray for spiders is not recommended, unless the infestation seems severe. Spot spray individual spiders if you find them objectionable.

Interesting Facts: For the most part, spiders are beneficial, eating insects and other spiders, but a wolf spider can bite if handled. Wolf spiders provide control of many pests that live on the ground.

Fishing Spiders

Description: Fishing spiders are some of the largest spiders found in Virginia. They are up to 3 inches in length, but appear to be much bigger when found on walls. Fishing spiders are in the Genus *Dolomedes*, Family:

Habitat: Primarily found near water or moist woods throughout the eastern United States where they are native. They do wander into houses or climb on outside walls. They feed mostly on insects and some species feed on fish, thus their name.

Control: Since they are not poisonous it is best to leave them alone or move them outside. If the presence of this harmless spider is objectionable, a spot treatment with an aerosol insecticide will take care of them.



Dolomedes okefinokensis (fishing spider) adult, Mohammed El Damir, Bugwood.org

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