

Garden Spider

Araneus diadematus

Insects · Adults Jul-Oct



Photo by Didier Descouens, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

A plump orb-weaving spider, variable from pale straw to deep chocolate-brown, marked with a distinct cross of white dots on the abdomen. Garden spiders are abundant in gardens, hedgerows and woodland edge around Dumfries, and become conspicuous in late summer when the females reach full size and their webs appear across every gap and gateway.

BEHAVIOUR

It builds a classic wheel-shaped orb web, often eating and rebuilding it daily to keep the silk sticky and clear of debris. The spider usually sits head-down at the hub, or hides nearby holding a signal thread that telegraphs a strike. Courtship is cautious — the much smaller male taps out a signal on the edge of the web before approaching. Females die after laying a silk-wrapped egg sac in autumn.

WHEN TO SEE IT

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Orb-weaver spiders (Araneidae)
SIZE	Females 10–13 mm, males 4–8 mm
STATUS	Native; abundant and widespread

Photo by Didier Descouens, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons