

Garden Spiders



Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

The black-and-yellow garden spider lives in gardens, in tall grass and near houses. A grown female is easy to spot. Her body is patterned in yellow and black, and her legs are black with yellow-orange stripes.

She spins a round web that can be about 2 feet across. Down the middle of the web is a zigzag band of silk. The spider rests head-down in the center and waits. When a grasshopper or another insect gets stuck in the sticky strands, she wraps it in silk.

All summer, the female makes egg sacs. Each one is papery and tan, a little smaller than a ping-pong ball, and can hold over 1,000 eggs. She fixes them to plants near her web. When the weather turns cold in fall, she dies.

The egg sacs wait through the winter. In spring, tiny spiderlings come out. Each one lets out a strand of silk that catches the breeze, and the wind carries it away to a new home.

1. How big can a garden spider's web be?

2. Where does the female fix her egg sacs?

3. What happens to the egg sacs after the female dies in fall?

4. Why do you think the spider's web is sticky?

Answer key

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1. How big can a garden spider's web be?
About 2 feet across.
2. Where does the female fix her egg sacs?
To plants near her web.
3. What happens to the egg sacs after the female dies in fall?
They wait through the winter, and in spring the spiderlings come out and float away on strands of silk.
4. Why do you think the spider's web is sticky?
Sample answer: so that grasshoppers and other insects that land in it get stuck, and the spider can catch them to eat.