



Hobo Spiders were first identified in Seattle in 1930 after being introduced from Europe. They are easily transported and now have spread throughout the Pacific Northwest. It was the third spider to be placed on the “venomous spider” list at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Adults are large, brown and somewhat hairy with a leg span of one and one-half inch. Although they prefer to live outside in meadows and woodpiles they will occasionally be found in basements and crawl spaces. They have a two-year life cycle and humans are most likely to encounter them in late summer and fall.

Their bite can cause tissue damage and systemic illness. After a bite a small hard area that resembles a mosquito bite appears. This is followed by an expanding red welt that may reach up to six inches in diameter. It begins to blister within 15 to 35 hours. Eventually the wound heals over, but it may take months to heal. Bites may be accompanied by nausea, fever, headaches and joint soreness. A physician should be consulted for treatment of bites.

Prevention: Avoid the spider when working outside by wearing protective clothing and gloves. Seal cracks around foundation, doors and windows. Remove debris around the outside of foundation. Where possible, eliminate wood piles, rock gardens and similar harborages.

For effective treatment programs

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