



BUTTERFLY PAVILION

Banded Garden Spider (*Argiope trifasciata*)



Country: Commonly found in North America

Habitat: Banded Garden Spiders are often found in gardens, meadows, and grassy areas, which provide plenty of flying insects for them to catch.

Diet: These spiders primarily feed on insects that get caught in their webs. Their diet may include flies, bees, butterflies, and other small flying insects.

Predators: Birds and other small animals

Behavior: When threatened, Banded Garden Spiders may exhibit defensive behaviors such as shaking or vibrating their webs to deter potential predators. They may even drop to the ground or hide in nearby vegetation to avoid danger.

Growth and Development: In terms of size and appearance, female Banded Garden Spiders are significantly larger and more conspicuous than males. Mating typically occurs after the male approaches the female's web. After mating, female Banded Garden Spiders produce egg sacs, which contain hundreds of eggs. These sacs are usually attached to nearby vegetation, and the female guards them until the spiderlings hatch. The spiderlings eventually disperse, often by ballooning (floating away on silk threads).

Lifespan: Typically, from spring to early autumn, most individuals do not survive the winter.

IUCN Endangered Status: The status of this species is undocumented.

Fun Fact: They remove debris, dead insects, and damaged silk to keep the web in optimal condition. Maintenance of the web is crucial for ensuring its effectiveness in catching prey.



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