

Deadliest Plants and Bugs



Fact sheet: Spiders

Many people are scared of spiders but they are greatly misunderstood. They keep the insect population down and they very rarely bite. In fact, they only bite when being attacked.



Spider scores decoded:

	5
	8
	8
	7
	10
	8

Size: 5

Sizes vary from the tiny Samoan moss spider which is 0.4 mm long, to the Goliath birdeater, which is a tarantula with a leg span of 28 cms.



Life Span: 8

Most spiders in the UK live for around one year, but the females of some species live for two or three years.



Colour / Camouflage: 8

Spiders are very good at blending in with their environment. They come in many different colours but the most common are black, grey or brown. Spiders will stay completely still to avoid being spotted.



Strength: 8

Spider silk is five times stronger than steel! Scientists have made artificial spider silk that is so strong it can be used for bullet proof vests. If you compare how much a spider can lift to how much a human can lift, a spider is 250 times stronger than a human.



Armour / Defence: 8

Spiders can drop a line of silk and fall from a height with great speed to avoid being eaten, just like Spiderman. They have fangs that inject venom when they bite their prey.



Poison level: 7

Almost all spiders are venomous. The difference between venom and poison is that venom is injected and poison is ingested. Only a handful of spiders are actually dangerous to humans.



More amazing spider facts:

Spider webs aren't sticky. The spider drops a sticky substance onto them and then plucks the web. The vibrations help distribute the sticky blobs evenly along the web to catch prey. When moving along the web the spider steps between the blobs to avoid being stuck.



Female spiders can lay up to 3000 eggs at one time. Wow! That's a lot of eggs!