

Scary Spiders in Mounts Botanical Garden

Though people think differently, spiders are beneficial. Spiders feed on insects like roaches and other small bugs. Some spiders trap their victims with a web, while others rely on their hunting ability to find their food. In the Mounts Botanical Garden you can easily spot the golden silk spider, *Nephila clavipes* a large orange and brown spider with feathery tufts on its legs.

Typically, the Golden Silk spider webs are usually attached to trees and low shrubs, although they may be in the tops of trees. This spider is well known to most native Floridians. During the fall months of the year it is particularly detested by hikers and joggers as webs of this spider can make a sticky trap for the unsuspecting. Typically, as with most spiders, there is little real danger from a run in with the golden silk spider. The spider will bite only if held or pinched, and the bite itself less severe than a bee sting. These beneficial spiders catch a wide variety of small to medium-sized flying insects, including, flies, bees, wasps, small moths and beetles. Visit the Mounts Botanical Garden and the IFAS Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service 531 North Military Trail in West Palm Beach M-F 9am-4pm. Suggested Garden Donation \$5.



Golden Silk Spider



Golden Silk Spider Web



Golden Silk Spider and Webs