

Be a huntsman spider buddy

Try to:

- Leave rocks in your garden to attract huntsman spiders into your backyard.
- Check for gaps under your doors and block up any if you'd prefer the Huntsman to stay outside.
- Admire them from a distance as they are quite shy and easily startled.
- Put a glass over them if they are indoors, and slide a piece of paper under it to transport your huntsman safely outside.



Huntsman spider venom won't hurt us.
Photo: Eliza Tyrrell.

Avoid:

- Using insecticides in your house and garden.
- Moving rocks unnecessarily. There might be some spider eggs under them.
- Touching spiders, as they can bite.

Don't be surprised if:

- You see a huntsman run along your dashboard. Remember, they won't try to attack you. They are more scared of you than you are of them!
- You see them become more active at night. This is because all Huntsmans are nocturnal.

Find out more about your buddies

VISIT: www.backyardbuddies.net.au
www.facebook.com/backyardbuddies

CALL: 1800 283 343 to purchase a Backyard Buddy toy. The proceeds go to threatened species conservation programs.

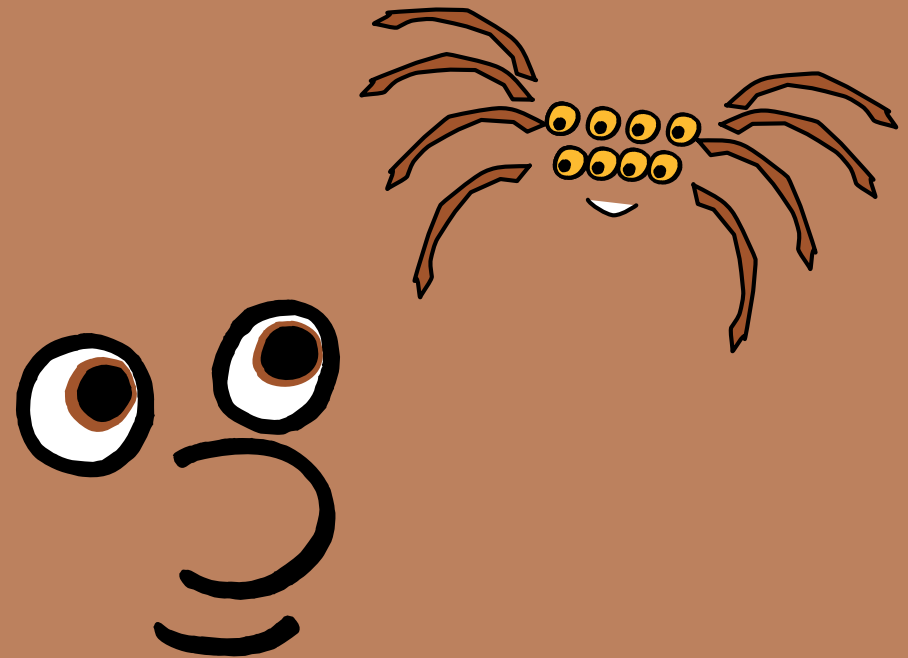
READ: Each month you can receive an email about animals you're likely to see in your backyard with tips on how to make your backyard friendly for them. It's called **B-mail** & it's free. All you have to do is sign up.

SIGN UP: www.backyardbuddies.net.au



Be a backyard buddy

Enjoy the huntsman spiders in your backyard



There are 100 known species of Huntsman in Australia but it's believed there are plenty more yet to be discovered. They're found in most states and territories of Australia, so you've got a good chance of spotting this buddy.



A huntsman spider.
Photo: Ryan Wick.

The female huntsman spider makes a great mum. She will lay all 200 of her eggs inside an egg sack which she places behind bark or under a rock. While the babies are developing she will stand guard to protect them day and night for three weeks without even stopping for food.

When the babies are ready to hatch, some huntsman mums will moisten the sack that's covering them and help tear it open. She can be a bit touchy when she's looking after her babies. You may see her rear up to scare away any predators nearby.

Huntsman spiders are here to help

It is a good sign to have a Huntsman around your house because while you are sleeping at night, they are getting rid of any creepy crawlies that may be hiding. They like to hunt alone and don't use webs to catch their prey.

Instead they will slowly stalk an insect until its close enough to pounce on. Don't be alarmed by their hunting behaviour, because their venom won't hurt humans and they're very scared of us.

What is a backyard buddy?

Backyard buddies are the native animals that share our built-up areas, our beaches and waterways, our backyards and our parks. The huntsman spider is a backyard buddy.

Backyard buddies are also the local people who value the living things around them, like huntsman spider, and are willing to protect and encourage them by doing a few simple things around their own homes. So you can be a backyard buddy.

Be a backyard buddy

It's easy. All you have to do is care... and take a few simple steps.

Step one is to find out what huntsman spider do and do not like.

Huntsman spiders love:

Bark and rocks

– which offer protection during the day and a safe place to hide their egg sac.

Cockroaches

– as they are carnivorous and will feed on all sorts of insects but these are some of their favourites.

Leaf litter

– around your backyard where their prey lives.

But they don't like:

Insecticides

– which can kill them and their food sources.

Cold weather

– as it's much harder for them to find food in winter as many bugs hibernate.

Rain

– which drives them to try and find shelter. This can sometimes turn out to be inside your nice, dry house!

Spider wasps

– which paralyse them, drag them back to a den, and lay an egg on them. When the egg hatches, they become dinner.

Webs

– as they catch their prey without one.

Handy Huntsman spiders

The Social or Avalon Huntsman was cast in the (2002) Spiderman movie as the spider who gave Peter Parker his power.

Some Huntsman species live quite socially in groups of up to 300. They will help raise children together and even share food.

In 2006 a new type of Huntsman was discovered. It's called the Tiger Huntsman and is bright orange it's also one of the largest Huntsman, but don't worry so far it's only been found in a small area of far north Queensland.



A huntsman spider that caught a cockroach. Photo: Bill & Mark Bell



A huntsman spider in leaf litter.

Photo: Bill & Mark Bell.