

How to Use Your Spiderdome



Above: The Walnut Orb Weaver may be one of the visitors to your Spiderdome.

When to Expect Visitors

Spiders may visit your Spiderdome at any time of the year, but the mature egg laying females of many species usually take up residence in spring and autumn, and lay their eggs on the wall of the inner tube. These are clearly visible as a dense mass covered with fine silk. Provided the eggs are fertile they will hatch within a few days of weeks, depending on the temperature and the species. During this period the spiders eggs, or young, may be observed without danger of desertion, but should the

spider show signs of distress, such as moving up and down the tube, simply replace the cover. During summer months immatures and older males might visit for a few days, but permanent residence is unlikely.

Positioning

There could be as many as a dozen species of spider in a small garden, most of which require a retreat of one kind or another. These are usually crevices in fences, holes in old walls or tucked away behind the bark of trees. Look carefully for strands of spiders silk webs and position the Spiderdome close by. Screw the entrance cap to the chosen site with the screw head at the top of the screw slot and the entrance aperture facing downwards. Carefully push the clear tube 3mms into the cap. Then place the black cover over the clear tube.



Above: Spiderdome, showing the black cover on the left and the base and clear tube on the right.

Spider Identification

There are over 600 known species of spider in the UK. Not all of them will use the Spiderdome as they require diverse habitats. A good way to identify some of the more likely visitors is with the fold-out colour identification guide called "A Guide to House and Garden Spiders" available at: www.uksafari.com/shop

Cleaning

After a while the clear tube may require cleaning to remove old egg sacs and webs. Simply remove it from the base, wash it in soapy water and then dry it with a tissue.