

Tarantula



Species: *rosea*
Genus: *Grammostola*
Family: Theraphosidae
Order: Araneae
Class: Arachnida
Phylum: Arthropoda
Kingdom: Animalia

Conditions for Customer Ownership

We hold permits allowing us to transport these organisms. To access permit conditions, [click here](#).

Never purchase living specimens without having a disposition strategy in place.

The USDA does not require any special permits to ship and/or receive Tarantulas, however, in order to continue to protect our environment, you should house your Tarantula in an escape proof terrarium. Under no circumstances should you release your Tarantula into the wild.

Primary Hazard Considerations

- You should always wash your hands thoroughly after you handle your tarantula, its food, or anything it has touched.
- The Chilean rose hair tarantula is one of the most docile species of tarantula, the venom is mild and used mostly for feeding rather than defense. When it is threatened, it may “bite” humans. The bite is sometimes strong enough to break skin. If this happens, venom may cause mild discomfort, itching or burning. Some people have an allergic reaction to the venom, especially those allergic to bee stings, so handle at your own risk.
- The abdomen of the tarantula is covered with small needle like hairs that can be flicked off with the hind legs in the direction of an attacker. These hairs may cause irritation, mild discomfort, itching or burning. A latex or nitrile glove may be worn in order to prevent penetration into superficial layers of skin by the hairs.

Availability

Tarantulas are available year round. Tarantulas should be placed in a habitat upon arrival. Adult tarantulas will arrive in a small plastic container, and are about the size of your palm when their legs are extended. The tarantula can live in the shipping container for about one week if necessary.

Captive Care

Habitat:

- Use a [Plastic Terrarium 21 W 2101](#) or glass aquarium with a ventilated top. Terrariums can vary in size but at least a one-gallon container should be used for your tarantula. A substrate of [Sphagnum Moss 22 W 2250](#), [Peat Moss 20 W 3921](#), sand, or organic soil can be used. Artificial plants or a small stick can be provided for climbing and hiding.
- Tarantulas should be kept at room temperature (70–80°F). They do not require any special lighting or heat. Never house two tarantulas in the same habitat. They will fight each other to the death, even during courtship!

Care:

- Food: Feed one or two of the following once a week: [Crickets 87 W 6100](#), waxworms, or other insects. Remove any uneaten food after 24 hours.
- Water: To provide water for your Tarantula, a wet sponge or wet cotton balls can be placed in the habitat daily. We use an insect watering device (a loosely covered jar with water in the bottom and a wick to provide a moist surface the spider can drink from) so water can be changed a little as once a week.
- Care: Spot clean the habitat once a week. Replace the old substrate with new every six months.

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Information

- Method of Reproduction: Sexual. Once mated, females store sperm in seminal receptacles until needed for fertilization. When eggs are deposited she releases a mixture of eggs and sperm through her genital opening into a cocoon that she constructs just for this purpose. She will then stand guard until the eggs hatch.
- Determining sex: Difficult to do with certainty, but females tend to be larger than males.

Life Cycle

- Eggs: 6–9 weeks
- Spiderling: 6 weeks–9 years (at 3–9 years they become sexually mature)
- Adult: 3–12 years. Males usually die shortly after mating.

Wild Habitat

Chilean rose hair tarantulas come from southern Peru and Northern Chile from the Atacama Desert. Their principle sources of water are the food that they eat (small desert insects) and the fog from the Pacific Ocean. Predators of the tarantula are weasels, hawks, owls and snakes. Their most interesting enemy is the spider-wasp. The female wasp paralyzes the spider by stinging it. The wasp then buries the spider and lays her eggs with it. When the eggs hatch the baby larval wasps will eat the spider. The spider could stay buried alive for several days before the wasp eggs hatch.

Special Notes

- Tarantulas do molt. This means they will shed their exoskeleton as they mature and grow larger. Just before molting, tarantulas may exhibit strange behaviors such as failure to eat, very little movement, and will often times spin silk so as to protect themselves from predators while molting.
- When they are ready to molt, tarantulas will roll over on their backs and become very still. They are often mistaken for dead. They are very vulnerable during this state and should not be disturbed. Any live food should be removed at this time, because it can damage the new, soft tissue of the tarantula. Once the spider has molted, it should not be fed for a week. Female adult spiders molt about once a year (younger spiders more often). Once males mature, they stop molting. You can identify an adult male by the mating hooks on the front legs that appear after the last molt.
- Tarantulas are nocturnal hunters that catch prey by pursuit, not by catching them in a web. They inject venom into prey using their fangs.

Disposition

- We do not recommend releasing any laboratory animal into the wild, and especially not insects that are not native to the environment.
- Adoption is the preferred disposition for any living animal.
- If the tarantula must be euthanized at the end of study, place it in the refrigerator overnight then transfer your tarantula to the freezer for 24–48 hours.
- A deceased specimen should be disposed of as soon as possible. Consult your school's recommended procedures for disposal. In general, dead insects should be handled as little as possible or with gloves, wrapped in an opaque plastic bag that is sealed (tied tightly) before being placed in a general garbage container away from students.