

# Curly Hair Tarantula

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**Species:** *albopilosum*  
**Genus:** *Brachypelma*  
**Family:** Theraphosidae  
**Order:** Araneae  
**Class:** Arachnida  
**Phylum:** Arthropoda  
**Kingdom:** Animalia



## Conditions for Customer Ownership

We are a USDA compliant facility and hold all necessary permits to transport our organisms. Each state is assisted by the USDA to determine which organisms can be transported across state lines. Some organisms may require end-user permits. Please contact your local regulatory authorities with questions or concerns. To access permit conditions, [click here](#).

**Never purchase living specimens without having a disposition strategy in place.** Live specimens should not be released into the wild! Please dispose of any unwanted organisms using the guidelines below.

## Primary Hazard Considerations

- You should always wash your hands thoroughly before and after handling your tarantula, its food or anything it has touched. This is for your safety, as well as the tarantula's. Loose hairs may cause irritation and itching.
- Even though this tarantula is docile, it may bite if it feels threatened. The venom is mild and used mostly for catching prey rather than defense. Its bite is sometimes strong enough to puncture the skin and inject venom. The venom may cause some discomfort, similar in strength to a bee sting. It can also cause an allergic reaction in some people, so handle at your own risk and seek medical attention if needed.

## Availability

Curly Hair Tarantulas are generally available throughout the year.

## Arrival

Your tarantula will arrive in a small plastic container. It is snugly wrapped in paper towel to protect it. Open carefully. It may be somewhat agitated after shipment. The tarantula should be placed in a prepared habitat shortly after arrival.

## Captive Care

### Habitat:

- Use a lidded plastic terrarium (470150-598) or glass aquarium with a screen top. Terrariums can vary in size, but should be at least 3-gallons and have a secure, ventilated cover. A secure cover is necessary because the tarantula can climb. For the substrate, use an organic potting soil without fertilizer. Place at least 3" in the bottom of the habitat. Add pieces of bark, wood, or plants to create climbing and hiding opportunities. If you use live plants, be sure they are free of pesticides or other chemicals.
- Never house two of these tarantulas in the same container, one may kill the other. This includes a male with a female. Only when they are ready to mate, will they briefly accept each other.

### Temperature, Humidity, and Light:

Tarantulas should be kept at room temperature (70–80°F). They do not require any special lighting or heating appliance. The substrate should be kept damp (not soggy) on one side of the terrarium, preferably where the water dish is located. The opposite side should be dry. Humidity should be kept between 65–70% and can be maintained by spraying the habitat lightly with water and partially covering the top with a piece of plastic or plastic wrap. They also need some air circulation, so never cover the top completely.

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## Care:

- **Food:** Feed the tarantula 2 large crickets (470180-328) once per week. Mealworms (470176-752), waxworms (470184-798), superworms (470180-360) or other similar-sized insects may be used for some variety.
- **Water:** Provide your tarantula with a small, shallow dish of unchlorinated (spring or distilled) water. Refill as needed and clean it once a week.
- **Care:** Spot clean the habitat weekly, removing any leftover food debris. Change the substrate about every 6 months.

## Health

- **Handling:** If you handle your tarantula, do it gently and don't startle it. Make sure it is only a few inches above a table or similar surface. An accidental drop of even a foot or two can damage or kill it. (See hazard info above.)
- If the habitat is kept too wet, with excess food debris, it will attract flies and the tarantula can develop an infection around the base of the fangs.

## Molting

A couple of weeks before your tarantula molts, it will stop eating. If it has not eaten its crickets within 24 hours, remove them for a week. Try feeding it again the following week. If it still doesn't eat and there are other signs of a pending molt, stop feeding it altogether. Some of the other signs are extra webbing, losing hair on the back of its abdomen, the "bald" spot turning from pink to black, and generally looking drab in color. It may remain in this state for several weeks. When it is ready to molt, it will lie down on its back, on a pad of webbing and become almost motionless.

**Do not mistaken it for dead.** The back of the exoskeleton will eventually crack open and the spider will slowly work off old skin. This may take a couple of hours. Do not handle or disturb it during or after this process. Once a tarantula molts, it is very soft and vulnerable and can't defend itself. Crickets or other food can damage it, so continue to withhold food for another week. An immature tarantula will molt a couple of times a year and an adult usually just once a year. It is important to maintain the humidity during this process.

## Life Cycle

Tarantulas reproduce sexually. A male will signal and cautiously approach a female. If she's not receptive, she may attack and kill him. If she is, the male will engage the female's fangs with the hooks on his front legs. He then places sperm, held at the end of his pedipalps, into a set of "pockets" called spermatheca, on the underside of the female. She can fertilize her eggs at will, but will lose the sperm when she molts.

## Wild Habitat

The Curly Hair Tarantula is native to the savannah regions of Central America.

## Interesting Facts

The Curly Hair Tarantula is one of the most docile species of tarantula and makes a good beginner spider.

## Disposition

- Do not release this species into the wild. It will not be in its natural environment and will likely come to an inhumane end. This species may also do damage to local species by spreading disease or out-competing them for food and habitat.
- Adoption to a knowledgeable, responsible person is the preferred method of disposition. If an animal can't be adopted, it may be surrendered to your local humane society.
- If the animal is to be euthanized, place it in the refrigerator for 24 hours and then in the freezer for 24 hours.
- A dead animal should be disposed of as soon as possible. Consult your school's recommendations for disposal. In general, a small dead invertebrate should be handled with gloves, wrapped in something absorbent (like newspaper or paper towel), then wrapped again in an opaque plastic bag that is sealed (tied tightly) and placed in a general garbage container away from students.