Benton County Master Gardener Problem Diagnosis Scenario #38

(Hobo Spider)

**Problem:** I found a large spider in my house and I believe it is a ‘Hobo Spider’. How can I get rid of it and others?

**Description:** Large brown spider found in garage. Owner thinks it is poisonous.

**Questions and Answers:**

**Question:** Do you have the spider?
**Answer:** No

**Question:** How big was the spider and where did you find the spider?
**Answer:** The spider was over an inch in diameter. I found the spider in its web in my garage. Boy does it run fast.

**Question:** Can you describe the web and where in the garage you found it?
**Answer:** The web was down on the cement foundation where it meets the dry wall. The web kind of looks like those triangular corner shelf.

**Reference(s):**

2011 PNW Insect Management Handbook Pg. 571-72
How to identify (or misidentify) the hobo spider -

**Diagnosis:**
The description given by home owner matches the HOBO SPIDER and several others. However the Hobo spider *Tegenaria agrestis* is rarely found now, having been almost completely displaced by its close relative the Gigantic House Spider *Tegenaria gigantean*. Both these spiders look very much alike and can only be properly identified by someone who is trained in spider ID. **Do not make an ID without the spider!**

**Recommendations:** It is rarely useful to apply pesticides or fumigate a house to control or eliminate spider infestations. Vacuuming up the spider is one way to rid your house of it. Sealing cracks around the house will help but will not prevent all entry by the spiders so you need to get rid of their food (other bugs).
Note: No stripes around legs.