

St Andrew's Cross Spider *Argiope keyserlingii*

When to look:
Summer and autumn

Often sits with legs in pairs, forming cross pattern.

It weaves zigzag patterns into its web, forming an X

Silver, yellow, red and black bands across abdomen

Females have a silvery head and dark brown legs with 1 or 2 yellowish bands, while males and juveniles will have brown and cream body and brown legs

Similar species:

Painted Orb Weaver (*Argiope picta*): less common than the St Andrew's Cross Spider and doesn't normally produce a complete X pattern on its web.

Banded orb-weaving spider (*Argiope trifasciata*): has yellow, white and black bands on its abdomen, and dark brown and pale yellow bands along the entire length of its legs.

Images courtesy of Volker Fremenau