

the lesions. Although the lesions do not spread by contact with the blister serum or from scratching, they can become secondarily infected.

Prevention

Prevention is best accomplished by avoiding contact and removing the plant from the environment. Teach all children, especially those known to be sensitive, to recognize the plant. Information regarding means for safe removal or destroying poisonous plants can be obtained from the US Department of Agriculture or US Forestry Service. Home garden sprays that kill broad-leaf plants or all vegetation (e.g., Roundup or Spectracide) are ineffective in permanently eliminating poison ivy growth. If poisonous plants are growing in public community area, the local authorities should be contacted to remove the plants.

Skin Disorders Related to Animal Contacts

Arthropod Bites and Stings

Arthropods include insects and arachnids, such as mites, ticks, spiders, and scorpions. Most arthropods in the United States, including tarantulas, are relatively harmless. All spiders produce venom that is injected via fangs, some are unable to pierce the skin, and others produce venom that is insufficiently toxic to be harmful. Only scorpions and two spiders—the brown recluse and the black widow—inject venom deadly enough to require immediate attention. Children bitten by these arachnids must receive medical attention as soon as possible. Major offending creatures, their manifestations, and management are outlined in [Table 13-2](#). A brown recluse spider bite is shown in [Fig. 13-2](#).

TABLE 13-2
Skin Lesions Caused by Arthropods

Mechanism and Characteristic	Manifestations	Management
Insect Bites: Flies, Gnats	Mosquitoes, Fleas	