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EXOTIC TARANTULA PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT SCRIPT October 2006

Hi, I'm G. B. Edwards, the official spider expert for the Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services. This is Frida – a non-native Mexican red rump tarantula. This species is now established in Florida, because someone released others of her species after they were tired of having them as pets. The pet trade imports many exotic animals, and others are inadvertently introduced through foreign commercial activities. The release or escape of these animals has led to the establishment of many unwanted species in Florida, threatening the existence of native animals and plants. Be a responsible exotic pet owner – don't release them into the wild. If you no longer can care for your pet, return it to the pet store or find a good home for it. In the case of spiders, Florida has over 750, most are native and generally beneficial, doing such good things as eating unwelcome insects like cockroaches and mosquitos. Spiders may look scary, but they're actually pretty cool. Right Frida? Want to hold her?



Florida Agriculture and Forest Products
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