

Slug and snail control measures

Problems and harmful side effects of slug pellets

They attract slugs and snails from neighbouring plots.

Unpleasant chemicals enter the plot.

They pose a danger to children, birds and animals.

They can stimulate slug reproduction.

Natural enemies of slugs suffer, preventing natural checks and balances.

Slug and snail predators



General prevention

- **Plot hygiene.** Clear under and around plants (stones, debris etc.) - slugs like to hide out of sight during the day.
- **Watering.** Water early so soil is well dried by evening.
- **Vigilance.** Inspect plants regularly and remove – catch them early morning or late evening, especially in damp weather.
- **Encourage natural controls.** Make your plot a friendly place for predators such as beetles, hedgehogs, birds, frogs and toads (damp shady spots, water source at ground level).
- **Cultivation.** Rake to create a fine tilth before sowing to expose slugs and their eggs to birds and other predators, also helping the soil to dry out, making movement more difficult.
- **Transplant** sturdy plantlets grown on in pots, rather than young vulnerable seedlings.

Barriers

- Cloches – home-made (using cut-off bottles) or bought “Slug collars”
- Copper tape/ rings/ mesh - copper repels slugs and snails.
- Copper-impregnated fabric matting .
- Seaweed – too salty for slugs and snails.
- Used coffee grounds or eggshells – too rough for slugs and snails.
- Sand, wood chips, gravel, cinders, ash – preferably wood ash.
- Pine needles – slugs don't like their acidic content.
- Hair and fur or lint from the tumble dryer – also adds nitrogen.
- Sheep's wool pellets – e.g. **Slug Gone**.
- Sheep's wool – wool fibres irritate slugs and deter them from crossing.
- Straw products e.g. **Strulch**.
- Petroleum jelly (Vaseline) smeared around pots, raised beds, cloches.

Traps

- Planks of wood, bits of damp carpet (preferably non-synthetic, non-foam-backed material), or cardboard.
- Citrus Rinds – lemon, grapefruit or orange rinds attract slugs.
- Beer traps – slugs like yeast and barley. Home-made or bought. To make your own, insert a shallow container (e.g. yoghurt pot) into the soil. Leave a rim 2cm above soil level to prevent beetles and other useful creatures from falling in. Place a bit of wood or tile over the beer trap. The slugs will still find their way in!



Slug trap



Slug X trap



Citrus fruit trap



Home-made beer trap



Home-made cloches



Slug collars



Copper mesh fence



Copper tape



Egg shells



Sheep's wool

Biological methods

- Nematodes – one application controls slugs for about 6 weeks.
- Cornmeal or bran – slugs love it and have less appetite for plants.
- Iron phosphate pellets – disrupt the digestive system. Scatter very thinly – just 4 or 5 per plant. Only use occasionally, as a last resort.

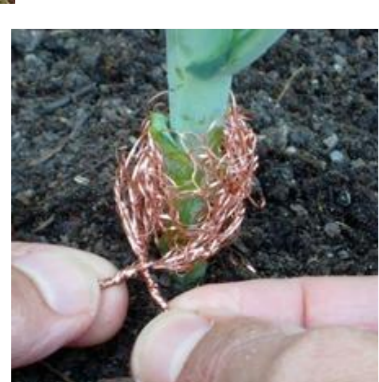
Sprays and washes

- Garlic based solution to spray on and around plants: Boil 2 crushed garlic bulbs in 2 pints of water for 3 to 4 minutes. Strain and cool. Mix 1 tablespoon in 5 litres of water and sprinkle on to leaves in late afternoon (in dry weather). Re-apply every two weeks. The mixture dries on the leaves making them unappealing to slugs and snails!
- **Grazers Slug & Snail Repellent** - ready-to-use spray or concentrate - a unique formula to deter slugs and snails.

Available in the RAA Stores



Strulch



Copper Mesh



Iron Phosphate Pellets

Growing Success pellets (approved for organic use)

Slug Defence Gel

Slug Gone sheep's wool pellets.

Copper-impregnated fabric matting

Copper mesh

Strulch



Slug Defence Gel



Copper-impregnated fabric