

CAUTION

Chemicals should not be used on the foliage and edible parts of the plants/ vegetables. Care must be taken to ensure that bait formulations are inaccessible to domestic animals since they could cause poisoning.



On brinjal



On maize



On strawberry



On Rice



On Potted plants



Slug

Management of Snails and Slugs



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MANAGEMENT OF SNAILS AND SLUGS

Snails and slugs are common and serious problems in many gardens and landscapes. They feed on a variety of living plants and on decaying plant matter and cause damage to plant seeds, seedlings, underground tubers, leaves and fruits. Damage to seedlings often results in the death of the plant, which means major production losses. They cause major damage by chewing the irregular holes on foliage and consuming up to forty per cent of their weight.

To prevent slugs and snails from invading crops following control measures should be adopted:

- 1) Remove all crop refuse and other sources of food, as well as bricks, boards and piles of debris that are directly in contact with the soil.
- 2) Remove fallen leaves.
- 3) Water in the morning - the surface soil will be dry by evening.
- 4) Reduce shady areas for resting and laying eggs. Thinning out plants and allowing air to circulate around the remainder can reduce favourable moist conditions within beds.
- 5) Hand picking is most effective in the evening, about two hours after sunset, since slugs and snails are more active at night. Using a flashlight, check the base of plants, the back of leaves and between the rows in the herb or garden may be effective methods to collect the snails. Use a spoon to dislodge the pests, and then place them in a container of soapy water.
- 6) An aluminum plate or any other shallow container partially filled with beer and buried to the rim will attract slugs and snails and also act as a trap. Slugs and snails that come to drink will fall into the beer and drown. Instead of beer, you may use a homemade solution containing one tablespoon of yeast

dissolved in 100 ml of water. For this method to be effective, the solution must be changed once or twice a week, especially after a rain.

- 7) Overturned flowerpots, with a stone placed under the rim to tilt it up a bit, will attract slugs. Leave overnight, and you'll find the slugs inside in the morning
- 8) Sprinkle a bit of salt on the slug and it will kill it quickly. Not particularly pleasant, but use as a last resort.
- 9) Mix a solution of 70-80% household ammonia with water and spray. The ammonia is harmless to plants but the slugs die within a couple of seconds.
- 10) Small strips of copper can be placed around flower pots or raised beds as obstructions for slugs to crawl over. Cut two inch strips of thin copper and wrap around the lower part of flower pots, like a ribbon. Or set the strips in the soil on edge, making a "fence" for the slugs to climb. Check to make sure no vegetation hangs over the copper which might provide a 'bridge' for the slugs.

Slugs and snails are particularly fond of products containing metaldehyde or methiocarb. Sprinkle the garden soil, rows and borders with pellets of the products containing metaldehyde or methiocarb, or place it in small piles one meter apart. The product will attract the slugs and snails which will then be destroyed by contact or ingestion. Remember that birds, dogs and cats are also attracted to these baits and can be poisoned by them. The baits should be covered with boards or rocks or placed in containers, which act as a natural hiding place for slugs and snails.