



PESTS & DISEASES

Snails & Slugs

Snails and slugs aren't technically insects, they are more closely related to molluscs! They still cause serious harm to precious vegetables, herbs and ornamentals in the garden. They can completely decimate young seedlings overnight when temperatures are cool, and the threat of bird predators are low.

They leave a distinctive silvery trail as they move so you will know if you have them around the garden. Snails and slugs will hide during the day in cool moist areas of the garden away from the light. There are many different species of snail and slug in the garden, most of them cause damage to our precious plants, some however do predate on others.

Snails and slugs will lay eggs in moist areas of the garden. When the weather gets hot and water resources around the garden are low, snails will retreat into their shells until conditions are favourable.

Control Methods

- Applying copper tape around the bottom of raised vegetable gardens prevents them entering. The Copper has an electric charge which shocks the snail or slug as it passes.
- Beer traps, bury an empty plastic container in the soil with the top flush with the soil. Fill the container with beer (snails are attracted to the yeast in the beer). In the morning check the container for signs of snails and slugs. It can help to add a drop of detergent to the liquid, this breaks the surface tension preventing pests from floating on top.
- Use a low toxic snail and slug bait in the garden. Placing the bait in snail houses prevent pets and young children from consuming the bait.
- Place a large board on the ground overnight, lift the board up in the morning and pick off slugs and snails attached.
- Clearing away mulch from new planting areas when the weather is cool enough, removes areas that slugs and snail may hide during the day.
- Ducks are natural predators of slugs and snails.