



GARDEN *pests* IN PERTH

Control Snails and Slugs

One of the most common pests in the garden are slugs and snail. They appear when the weather is mild and damp and can consume a row of newly planted seedlings in one go. There are many ways to control these pests, ranging from encouraging natural predators to using pellets. It may be a case of using several different techniques to bring the pest population under control. Here is a range of simple options to try.

- Create an environment that encourages natural predators, such as birds and frogs, to do the work for you.
- Spread coffee grounds around plants and seedlings as a barrier for snails and slugs.
- Sink a yoghurt tub or margarine container into the garden with the rim just as soil level. Fill this with beer and you have an effective slug trap.
- Crushed eggshells or seashells can be spread as a coarse barrier around plants to deter snails and slugs.
- Diatomaceous Earth (DE) can be sprinkled on the plants as an abrasive deterrent. It needs to be replaced after rain.
- Copper Tape is a safe and effective way to control these slimy pests. When a slug or snail tries to cross the tape, a tiny electrical charge is created naturally within the copper tape. This repels the pest without killing it and deters them from trying again.
- Some plants, such as Garlic, are said to be naturally offensive to slugs and snails. They can be planted as a border to the garden to protect the other plants.
- Wheat bran or corn bran can be placed in small piles or rings in the garden. Slugs and snails eat the bran, it soaks up the moisture from their bodies and they die. It is a wholly organic solution and other wildlife are not adversely affected if they eat the dead pest.
- Multiguard Snail and Slug Killer is a new generation of bait developed to provide more effective control with less danger to children, animals and wildlife. It is bran-based and contains Iron EDTA Complex as the active ingredient. This is attractive to snails and slugs who consume the poisonous pellets instead of the nearby plants. The pellets break down into the soil and provide nutrients for plants without harming earthworms or beneficial insects.

The pellets contain a bittering agent to deter consumption in large quantities by children. Dogs can gulp down quantities of food before they taste the bitterness, so the pellets should be sprinkled on sparingly and not placed in piles or heaps. If consumed in large quantities by dogs, it may be toxic so keep the packet in a safe place.

This is intended as general information only. Please ask one of our horticulturists for specific advice for your situation.