Slugs and Snails
Class: Gastropoda
Milky Garden Slug

Arion subfuscus
Slug injuries
Slugs leave slime trails
Slug trails on pavement
Slugs and snails lay eggs in soil cracks
Slug eggs
Management of Slugs in a Garden

- Reduce humidity in the planting
- Encourage natural enemies
- Slug baits
- Contact sprays
- Repellents
- Traps
Some Vertebrate Predators of Slugs and Snails
A common predator of slugs in backyards
Fireflies are predators. Larvae feed on slugs, snails and other soft-bodied animals in moist soils.
Molluscicides

- Metaldehyde
- Iron Phosphate

Photo by Bob Hammon
Some Metaldehyde-based Slug Baits
Corry's Slug & Snail Death

Ideal for Vegetable Gardens

Original English Formula
Not Affected by Rain

Keep Out of Reach of Children
Caution: This Product May Be Fatal to Fish

Net Wt. 5 Lbs. (2.26kg)
When Using Slug Baits….

• Conditions should not be highly moist
  – Moist conditions allow recovery from metaldehyde poisoning

• Make applications late in the day
  – Slug baits degrade in sunlight
Top Crest
CLEAR
Ammonia
and SLUG KILLER
64 FL OZ (2 QT)
Proposed Barriers/Repellents

- Copper
- Salt
- Wood ashes
- Some soaps
- Diatomaceous earth
- Ground egg shells
Copper as a repellent/barrier for slugs and snails
Effective Barriers/Repellents

• Copper
• Salt
• Wood ashes
• Some soaps
Management of Slugs in a Garden

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Traps for Slugs

• Traps that provide for cover/protection sought by slugs
  – Moistened newspapers
  – Citrus rinds

• Traps that include attractant food-based baits
  – Beer
  – Some products of fermentation
Budweiser
KING OF BEERS

Anheuser-Busch, Inc.
Table 1a. Rankings of beverages for attractiveness to slugs, Ft. Collins, CO 1987. (Summary of 5 trials).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beverage</th>
<th>Attraction index*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kingsbury Malt Beverage</td>
<td>1.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelob</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budweiser</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bud Light</td>
<td>0.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Milwaukee</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coors Light</td>
<td>0.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schaefer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miller</td>
<td>0.68</td>
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* Expressed as ratio of slug capture in comparison with Budweiser standard.
Table 1b. Rankings of beverages for attractiveness to slugs, Ft. Collins, CO 1987. (Summary of 5 trials).

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<tr>
<td>Strohs</td>
<td>0.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lite</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar water/yeast</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coors</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pabst Blue Ribbon</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainier</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallo Pink Chablis</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ft. Collins tap water</td>
<td>0.06</td>
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Constituents of beer identified as being attractive to slugs (Selim 1973)

- diacetyl
- acetoin
- dihydroxyacetone
The Ugly Slug
by Allan G. Peterson

The slug is quite a loathsome creature;
It has not a single attractive feature;
So it becomes very depressed I fear,
And drowns its sorrows in stale beer!