



Battling Slugs

Although gardening has its mental and therapeutic benefits, slugs are a huge source of frustration. They hide in dark, moist places in daylight then devour our plants at night.

Slugs eat double their weight every day, preferring succulent green foliage. Hostas are their favourite, but their large appetite makes almost every plant a target.

To start to battle slugs, it's important to eliminate their favourite habitats.

- Trim shrub branches that touch the ground
- Check for slugs wherever it's dark and moist - under pots and decking, and shady areas in the garden
- Keep your garden weed free - by hoeing, you'll disturb slugs and their eggs
- The lawn and its edges should remain well trimmed to reduce hiding spots for slugs.
- Moist mulch is a favourite habitat; mulch laden with eggs (white, jelly like pellets) should be removed in spring, and turned over in winter to expose eggs to frost.
- The best time to spot these slimy creatures is in the evening and early morning hours. As they move, slugs produce a string of slime. As this trail attracts other slugs, it's important to remove the trail by turning soil over with a trowel. Follow the trail; you'll probably find the slug.



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If hand picking is not your first choice, here are some suggestions for removing slugs:

Slug Traps

Whether you use a purchased trap, plastic container or half of a grapefruit rind, slugs are attracted to a good drink of stale beer. Slugs crawl into traps and drown.

Safer's Slug and Snail Bait

After slugs ingest this bait, they cease feeding and die within 3-6 days. The active ingredient ferric phosphate will not harm pets or birds.

Corry's Slug and Snail Bait

This easy to use granular slug killer is extremely effective. The bait lures slugs from their hiding places and kills them. The active ingredient metaldehyde can be harmful to pets and birds. Use with caution; remove dead slugs immediately so pets or birds do not eat them.

Other deterrents to try

Save your eggshells. Once dry, mash them finely and spread around plants. The sharp edges irritate slugs. Sawdust spread beneath plants works as a great deterrent.



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