



# J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift  
and Garden Center

620 North 500 West Bountiful, Utah 292-0421

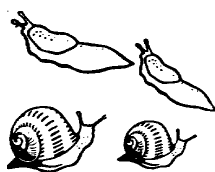
[www.JLGardenCenter.com](http://www.JLGardenCenter.com)

## Slug and Snail Controls

There are many ways to kill slugs and snails but there is not a 'best way'. The most important thing to remember in trying to control slugs and snails is persistence: **Don't give up**. Keep trying to kill those pesky critters all spring, summer, and fall. Try different methods until you find one that works; then try a new one when the previous method stops working.



There are many controls for snails and slugs, but, there isn't one "best" control. Controls may include chemicals, handpicking, traps, and various other tactics (including feeding them beer). Handpicking requires persistence but it can be therapeutic as you gather and stomp on them, or throw them in the garbage can. Pay your kids a penny a piece for collecting them.



**Slugs and Snails are some of the most common pests in Utah.** Here is some valuable information about these hungry creatures that may help you control them in your yard!

\* The average yard contains more than 1,000 snails or slugs.

\* Snails feed on dead organic material including tree bark, firewood and piles of trash.

\* Snails prefer eating vegetable and flower plants but they will eat most anything in the yard, including the bark off trees.

\* Snails have a mouth that is surrounded by fleshy lips and contains a single "toothed" jaw used to tear away its food.

\* There are not boy and girl snails; all snails lay eggs. However, snails must mate with another snail before laying eggs.

\* Snails lay up to 100 eggs at a time, scooping a cavity in loose, moist soil to bury their eggs. These eggs hatch in about two weeks and the young snails immediately begin to eat.

\* Snails are most active and feed during the night. However, they will continue to feed during the daytime when the weather is cool and wet (or when the gardens are kept wet with sprinklers).

\* Snails will travel quite a large distance from

their home base; you'll see a trail of 'slime' where they have traveled.

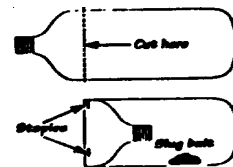
\* Snails can live up to thirteen years. Snails can lie dormant up to four years and still survive.

\* Snails require moisture to survive. Try to keep your gardens as dry as possible and still keep your plants healthy.

### Methods of Control

Slugs and snails are always a problem in both the flower and vegetable gardens. There is no simple or easy way to control these pests. Diligence is perhaps the only way to win the battle against these critters. There are many different ways to try. See which of these methods work best for you.

**1. Snail traps.** You can build a snail trap with a pop bottle, milk jug, or large can. You can use beer, molasses, strawberries, snail bait, or any sweet smelling item to attract them. The object of the trap is for the snails to be attracted into the trap and then not be able to get out. Your



trap may need to be emptied every week or two. Keep your trap free of dead snails in order to attract more snails. Either empty it regularly or throw it away and build a new one when it gets full. We also sell snail traps if you don't want to make your own.

**2. Snail bait.** Remember, most slug and snail baits do not kill them. Most slug and snail baits only paralyze them so the air and sun can kill them by dehydrating



them. If you water often; if the baits are used in cool, moist areas; or if the weather is cloudy or rainy, the paralysis may wear off before the pests dehydrate and die. They may crawl away, with a little stomach ache, and continue eating your plants.



Put slug and snail bait out in the evening, after watering the area. Check your gardens in the morning. Remove any slugs and snails; don't just leave them to die or smash them. Eggs inside smashed snails may still hatch and grow. New snails hatch every few days.

Think like a snail. Put your snail bait where you would hide if you were a snail. You don't need to put the bait over the entire yard, just around the cool moist areas where you are trying to control them. Apply the bait on the edges of the gardens so the snails will eat the bait and die before they reach your tender young plants. Put a little bait out once every week rather than a lot all at once.

Change the slug and snail baits you use periodically. Not all baits use the same attractants even though most of them use the same chemical (metaldahyde). Some snails may not be attracted to some baits but really like another brand. Try using **Lilly Miller Snail Bait** and then switch to **Corry's, Pax, or Deadline**. All of these products are effective for controlling both slugs and snails, if used regularly.



**Note:** Slug and snail baits are poisonous and often fatal to dogs, cats, and other animals that eat them. Don't let **Fido** watch you scatter snail bait in the garden, he might think you are spreading out some of his favorite food for him to eat. Liquid baits and meal baits are not as tempting to animals as pelleted baits are, but all of these products are dangerous. Be sure to keep animals away from treated areas.



Another type of bait is available that is not toxic to animals, it contains iron phosphate, an ingredient sometimes used in fertilizers. The Lilly Miller Company manufactures **Worry Free Bait** and the Monterey Company makes **Sluggo**. These two baits are non-toxic to animals. They cause the snail to stop eating, become less mobile, and start to die within a few days. These two baits are more expensive than the traditional slug and snail baits but they may save you a Veterinarian Bill.

**3. Liquid Snail Killer.** Use this product just like any other snail bait; apply it at night, apply it around the area the snails might



be, and re-apply it often. **Deadline** and **Corry's Liquid Snail Line** are paste-type products that are very effective controlling slugs and snails. They are sweet smelling and the snails love the taste. Liquid paste remains active for several days or weeks, depending on your watering habits.



**4. Diatomaceous earth.** This sharp sand dehydrates snails and many other insect pests, as they crawl across it. Diatomaceous earth is not a poison. Dust the ground and plants affected by these pests. Re-apply diatomaceous earth regularly especially after heavy rainstorms or watering heavily.



**5. Slug & Snail Barrier Tape.** This copper strip acts as a barrier and prevents slugs and snails from crossing it. Have you ever put aluminum foil in your mouth and been shocked? This copper barrier strip does the same thing to snails. It produces an electrical charge as the snail crosses it. Snails will stay away! This tape works great for containers, raised beds, trees, and vines.



**Persistence is the main control for snails and slugs.** Whichever method you choose for control, keep it up until the ground freezes each winter. Snails continue to eat and multiply until the temperature gets cold; then they look for a nice warm place to hibernate until spring. Mother Nature does not do a good job killing snails during the winter.

Roto till all your gardens in the fall and remove any debris that would conceal hibernating snails. Take some early morning walks through your garden with a flashlight, you might be surprised how many little critters you find eating your plants. Each snail you remove this year will help reduce the snail population next year.

