

SNAILS & SLUGS

Garden Snail



INSECT TIDBITS

Snails placed in a magnetic field will turn clockwise before the new and full moons, and counterclockwise just before the first and third quarter.

All snails have male and female organs.

The brown garden snail can be dormant for up to four years.

PREVENTION

- **Remove piles** of boards, bricks, or rocks that they hide under. Snails need moist shady areas with ground contact.
- **Use rough materials** such as bark, eggshells, or gravel where appropriate. Rough-cut mulches are deterrents.

LESS-TOXIC CONTROLS

- **Hand pick** at night a few hours after sunset, or after sprinklers have been on, or check their favorite plants during the day. Slugs hide in soil crevices up to one foot deep. Some will come to moist traps, but hand picking will probably be necessary for good control.
- **Make ideal hiding spots into traps.** Snails and slugs like dark, moist and cool areas to hide in during the day. An overturned flowerpot or boards make good traps. Place where the morning sun doesn't hit the trap and leave a crawl space so they can get in.
- **Create a barrier** using copper stripping, found in nurseries and hardware stores. It can be attached directly to tree trunks, or put it around a container that has its bottom cut off and use it as a collar to protect young or special plants. Copper strips can also be placed around raised beds to keep snails out.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact the Central Coast Environmental Health Project (CCEHP) at (805) 963-1622 ext. 111, or the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner at (805) 681-5600. Information compiled by the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO) and the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner's office on behalf of the CCEHP.