

# Buyer's guide / Slug & snail control

**Grasses guide**  
How to care for your ornamental grasses in spring **Page 15**

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## Chemical controls



### Pellets

Traditional pellets based on metaldehyde

- Scotts Miracle-Gro SlugClear Advanced Pellets**  
Highly efficient blue mini pellets containing 1.5% metaldehyde.  
**Price guide 230g £1.58; 700g £3.05**
- Bayer Garden Slug & Snail Killer**  
Shower-proof blue mini pellets containing 3% metaldehyde.  
**Price guide 400g £2.99; 750g £3.99; 1kg £4.99**
- Doff Advanced Slug Killer**  
All-weather, blue mini pellets containing 3% metaldehyde.  
**Price guide 1kg £4.99**
- Westland ERAZA Slug and Snail Killer**  
High performance, blue mini pellets, containing 1.5% metaldehyde, that are claimed to be five times more effective than standard pellets.  
**Price guide 1kg £4.99**
- Doff Slug Killer**  
Blue mini pellets containing 1.5% metaldehyde.  
**Price guide 450g £2.19; 800g £3.99**

**GN TOP TIP**  
To keep them effective, remember to reapply slug and snail pellets after heavy showers of rain

### Organic rain-fast pellets

Rain-fast pellets containing 0.01% ferric phosphate, a naturally-occurring ingredient certified for organic use, plus a bait attractant.

- Doff Super Slug Killer**  
**Price guide 700g £6.99**
- Vitax Slug Death XL**  
**Price guide 500g £6.30**
- Growing Success Advanced Slug Killer**  
**Price guide 250g £2.99; 750g £5.49**
- Bayer Garden Slug Bait**  
**Price guide 350g £3.99; 700g 5.99**



### Liquid

- Scotts Miracle-Gro SlugClear**  
A liquid concentrate that contains 228g/litre metaldehyde and works in the soil. Only approved for use on ornamental plants.  
**Price guide 250ml treats 67sq m (80sq yd) £5.30**

## Barrier mulch

### GrowAid

**Slug Gone**  
Pure wool pellets absorb moisture from slugs and contain abrasive particles to aggravate and irritate. They bind together, forming an insulation mat around the plant and also act as a natural mulch, slow-release fertiliser and soil conditioner as they biodegrade. Lasts for up to 12 months.  
**Price guide: 3.5-litre tub £10.95; 20-litre bag £24.95**



## Traps

### Growing Success

**Slug & Snail Trap**  
Use with salt or salt and beer.  
**Price guide £3.99**



### Agralan

**Portable Slug Trap**  
Comes complete with attractant which lasts for up to three weeks; refill attractant is available.  
**Price guide £3.99**



# Beat the pests

Now's the time to protect your plants from slugs and snails. Geoff Hodge looks at what's available to help you

THEY are probably the worst pests in the garden - and every garden has them - thousands

of them! Slugs and snails are voracious feeders and any young plants with tasty, new growth are on the menu, forming part of slug and snail banquets.

I'm a pellet kind of guy. Personally, I've always preferred pellets or liquid controls as I think they give the best overall protection.

Because many plant-damaging slugs live in the soil, placing a barrier around susceptible plants means that these slugs can come up through the soil inside the barrier - 'Colditz' style! - unless the barrier is right up against the plants.

A few pellets scattered around the plants - and remember they do need to be scattered, not piled up and placed under half grapefruit skins or tiles - to my mind seem to work best.

In the past, this has meant using traditional metaldehyde-based pellets, but the newer pellets, based on the naturally-occurring ferric phosphate, seem to be just as effective. Which is good news for organic gardeners or those who don't like using man-made chemicals.

So, here's what's widely available - divided into the various control methods they use. The choice is yours, just remember to do something or you'll regret it when your plants are chopped down to ground level!

### Suppliers

- Agralan 01285 860015**  
www.agralan.co.uk
- Bayer Garden 0845 345 4100**  
www.bayergarden.co.uk
- Becker Underwood 01903 732323**  
www.nemasysinfo.co.uk
- Doff Portland 0115 983 4300**  
www.doff.co.uk
- GrowAid 01924 406009**  
www.sluggone.com
- Growing Success from William Sinclair 01522 537561**  
www.william-sinclair.co.uk
- Scotts Miracle-Gro 08451 901881**  
www.lovethegarden.com
- Vitax 01530 510060**  
www.vitax.co.uk
- Westland Horticulture 08700 663566**  
www.gardenhealth.com

## Copper barriers

### Copper tape

Copper produces a static electrical charge that repels slugs and snails. Can be used around pots, raised beds, greenhouse staging etc.



- Agralan Copper Slug Tape**  
Adhesive copper tape.  
**Price guide 4m (13ft) £5.99**
- Agralan Copper Slug & Snail Tape**  
Adhesive copper tape with serrated edge that increases the electrical charge; particularly good at deterring snails as well as slugs.  
**Price guide 5m (16½ft) £10.49**
- Growing Success Slug Barrier**  
Adhesive copper tape.  
**Price guide 4m (13ft) £5.29**
- Vitax Copper Slug Tape**  
Info Adhesive copper tape.  
**Price guide 4m (13ft) £5.10**

### Copper mat

**Agralan Slug & Weed Mat**  
This copper-coated fabric acts as a barrier to slugs and snails, as well as suppressing weed growth and conserves soil moisture. Use under pots or around plants.  
**Price guide 180x50cm (72x20in) £9.99**



## Granules

Non-toxic granules used to make a barrier around plants. The granules are rough and also absorb moisture from slugs and snails.

- Growing Success Slug Stop**  
**Price guide 2kg £5.99**
- Vitax Slug Off**  
**Price guide 3-litres (approx 1kg) £5.70**
- Westland Earth Matters Slug Blocker Granules**  
**Price guide 2kg £4.99**



## Barrier gel

Colourless gel made from natural ingredients used to make a barrier around plants. It can also be used on hard surfaces, including vertical surfaces.

- Doff Organic Slug Defence Gel**  
**Price guide 1-litre £3.99**
- Westland Earth Matters Slug Blocker Gel**  
**Price guide 750ml £3.99**



## Biological control

**Becker Underwood Nemaslug**  
Combats slugs, but not snails, using a natural parasitic nematode pest control. Best used from March to October; one application lasts six weeks. Works underground where slugs live.  
**Price guide Standard Pack treats 40sq m (48sq yd) £10.95; Large Pack treats 100sq m (120sq yd) £21.95**

