

The most common pest mollusk in vegetables are slugs, but white snails are becoming an increasing problem along with the common brown garden snail. These three groups of pests need to be treated slightly different but **ERADICATE** is effective on all three groups. However, no bait is effective when the white snails aestivate, that is they climb up into the vegetable and seal off their shell. This happens in summer on hot dry days. The snails are capable of remaining in this state for months. Although they do not consume food whilst aestivating they contaminate the crop and obviously they need to be removed if the crop is for human consumption.

From the most detailed studies on white snails it appears that growing plant material is not particularly attractive to two of the four pest species. *Cernuella virgata* and *Cochlicella acuta* consume dead plant material in preference to living plants whereas the reverse is true for *Theba pisana* and *Cochlicella barbara*. The common brown snail, *Helix aspersa*, (or *Cantareus aspersus* as it is now known) is a ferocious eater of seedlings.

On the other hand it is generally agreed that slugs are attracted to certain plants and indeed certain parts of plants. Slugs are widespread in home gardens and horticulture because of higher soil moisture as a result of irrigation. Slugs spend most of the day in the soil or under stones or logs etc, and emerge at night for feeding. In vegetables the most common problem caused by slugs is at the seedling stage. Often slugs eat the seedlings at ground level but generally do not consume the whole seedling, although they still kill the seedlings. Bran and sugars such as those which occur in nectar, appear to be attractive to slugs such as *Deroceras reticulatum*.

Before applying **ERADICATE** to deal with a slug infestation it is advisable to establish how severe the infestation is. Simple slug traps can be made by cutting a masonite board about 30 x30cms, drilling a hole in the centre and securing it to the soil by means of a steel tent peg. It is important that the trap is in good contact with the soil and the smooth surface is in contact with the soil. Putting a small amount of chicken pellets under the trap will help attract the slugs to the trap. The trap should be checked pre- dawn. If there are any slugs under the trap then **ERADICATE** Snail and Slug Killer should be applied.

In vegetables infested with white snails it is important to realise that white snails eat bait only when they are on the soil and this usually occurs at night. If the weather is hot and dry the snails will remain on plants until the weather changes and the soil becomes damp. Generally, white snails are more difficult to control than the common brown snail because of the habit of climbing up plants. Even if the soil is damp white snails tend to climb up onto plants during the day and come down in the evening. In the case of white snails better control may be obtained by two or more applications at 5-10 kg/ha even for moderate to severe infestations.

Generally, if there is a lot of plant trash surrounding vegetables the effectiveness of any bait treatment on white snails is reduced. This appears to be due to the fact that white snails, particularly in the case of the conical snails which "hide" in crop trash may not even go down to the soil surface to feed. Avoid using any mulch if conical snails are a problem.

Slugs and the common brown snail can be treated by applying **ERADICATE** at a rate of 5 kg/ha for mild infestations and up to 15 kg/ha for significant infestations.



Helix aspersa



Cochlicella barbara



Deroceras reticulatum