

PEST CONTROL SERVICE

Pest Information Leaflet No. 11

SLUGS AND SNAILS



Description

Both slugs and snails are plant eating molluscs which are significant pests of horticulture and agriculture. Only very occasionally will they be found indoors, principally in damp basements.

Biology and Habitat

Slugs and snails are mainly, though not exclusively nocturnal and are active and feed throughout the year, whenever the temperatures and moisture conditions are suitable. During dry weather and often when it is frosty, they stop feeding and move down into the soil or shelter under debris. They are most active on still warm nights when the soil is wet and the atmosphere humid. Wind and heavy rain decrease activity.

Eggs are laid in clusters in the soil or in decaying organic matter on which they feed. The eggs are quickly killed by drought or frost unless they are protected by the warmth and damp provided by rotting vegetation and soil.

Importance

Cellars or other damp conditions inside may attract slugs and snails to become household pests leaving slimy trails across carpets and other flooring materials. They can be an unpleasant nuisance but they do not spread disease, and hence their presence does not constitute a risk to health.

Control

Clear outside vegetation and other debris near to points of access to the inside. Slug pellets may be applied externally. You could also lay a trap by sinking a jar into the ground and filling it two thirds full of stale beer. This will attract the slugs which will fall in and die.

There are also non-toxic aerosol sprays (repellents) on the market.

Carry out necessary house maintenance, sealing holes, repointing brickwork etc. to eliminate or minimise the ingress of water, moisture and molluscs.

Safety

Before using an insecticide, to protect yourself and to minimise damage to the environment **ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW THE APPLICATION AND USE INSTRUCTIONS PRINTED ON THE CONTAINER.**

Pest Control Service

Stroud District Council's Pest Control Service does not undertake the treatment of slugs and snails but by persevering with the above advice and you should be successful in eradicating the problem.

For further details of the service we can offer for household pests please telephone Stroud 754919 or write to:

Pest Control Service
Environmental Health Service
Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill, Westward Road
Stroud, Glos
GL5 4UB

e-mail:- environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk

Leaflets Available in this Series

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- 4 Ants
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- 6 Carpet Beetles
- 7 Woodlice
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- 12 Badgers
- 13 Foxes