

# Exploring the mysteries that are slugs & snails

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**Working with a biodynamic approach to gardening we engage in a dynamic, listening and observational relationship with our environment and take note of everything present in and around our garden, including all the “wildlife”.**

I feel that which we do not hold in our consciousness, and do not really care for and nurture, is less ‘wild’ and more ‘abandoned’. This is possibly the main reason that we modern, ‘civilized’ people are blind to the mysteries and wonders of nature and how to support it in a harmonising way.

## **So, why do slugs and snails eat so much in my garden?**

**Here are a few hints from my own observations and research:**

- Climate change records since 1976 show our winters are increasingly warmer and summers cooler with more overcast/moist weather conditions, adding to the predominantly watery and earthy elements of Britain.
- We have become less tidy in our gardens and often let the grass grow high, or we have wooden

raised-beds, offering hiding-places for slugs and snails away from the light.

- People have mostly stopped cultivating the soil which would expose the slug eggs laid in autumn and increasingly in winter, so more of the eggs survive to hatch each spring.
- Traditionally gardeners would hoe the beds regularly most of the year round, disturbing any slugs or snails and other soil-born pests, also bringing the elements of warmth, air and light into the soil.
- Mulching and covering the soil reduces interchange between the four elements and causes a layer of soil stagnation.
- The use of quick-return compost and fresh manure, which are high in ammonia, nitrites and nitrates, boosts vegetative, watery growth that slugs love.

- Transplanting seedlings too early or too late, making them vulnerable.
- Lack of water habitats where amphibians and birds are attracted as garden predators.

## **Some ideas to deal with attacks from slugs and snails:**

- Invest in some copper tools and hoe regularly or move your soil when the moon is in a warmth or air/light constellation.
- Hoe your soil with a shuffle hoe to maximum 2cm depth in the morning to preserve moisture in the ground below and create a dust-mulch on top. Having a dry soil surface will deter slugs and snails and will help inhibit fungal attacks.
- Use other effective substances like essential oils for natural health and garden care. Apply a solution of essential oil sprays with peppermint, pine, cedarwood and hyssop oils (10-12 drops in a 500 ml spray bottle).
- Make sure your plants are well nourished, particularly with potassium and silica using good mature compost made with the preparations. Employ liquid manures like nettle and comfrey as foliar sprays early in the morning and apply the biodynamic preparations Horn Silica (501) and Horsetail (508), when the moon is in light/air or warmth constellations. Note that using the Horn Silica in late-January when slugs and snails are active helps bring the light element into the garden and soil, discouraging them from laying eggs.



### Physical barriers from Spring onwards:

- Sprinkle around the plants ground eggshells, sharp sand, basalt, soot or lime to protect them.
- Create a barrier by laying a closed circuit copper wire or strip around garden beds.
- Mulch your garden paths and perimeter with pine mulch, which contains high amount of resins, turpentine and essential oils.
- Make a liquid manure from bracken. I have great personal experiences with this ferment in Wales.
- Collect slugs and snails by putting out boards, cardboard or orange peels and go out at night collecting them, or by placing beer slug traps. Ferment them in water, dilute 1:9, apply to affected plants to repel pests, then feed your plants to outgrow damage.
- If you have space and a passion for ducks, get yourself some Indian Runner Ducks. They usually leave your vegetables in peace (except green leafy veg, which will need some protection) and eat the slugs and snails, and their eggs are fabulous for baking.
- Ensure you have a pond, which attracts frogs, toads and newts, and also provides water for birds and insects. Even a small one makes a big difference.
- As a last resort use pet-friendly slug wool pellets.

### A few remarks to end:

You might have noticed that there is a correlation between the fact that



the water element is over-predominant in the plants when 'fertilisers' rich in nitrogen compounds are being used. I suggest using the Yarrow preparation, and to a certain extent the Chamomile preparation, as a spray or compost tea, to enhance the potassium processes and to bring potassium into a bio-available form and help regulate the nitrogen presence.

I believe, energetically and physically the slugs and snails are moving stagnant energy and imbalanced minerals, and are responsible for helping to make available elements like potassium, which seems to be high in their slime. The slime is positively charged and enhances the Earth forces.

Could there be a connection between using iron as cultivating tools which discharges the soil? Would it therefore be advisable to use copper or alloy tools as put forward by Victor Schauberg?

It seems for the same reason that copper wires or bands around garden beds or plant stems keep away the slugs, as the energy field is more balanced. We could possibly achieve the same through the clay preparation Schauberg talks about. Clay is piezo-electric and supposedly protects the soil from being destroyed by detrimental radiation.

It remains for you to continue observing in your own environment and share your experiences with others on improving our relationship with the two precious beings called slugs and snails.

Slugs & Snails & COPPER TOOLS - [www.implementations.co.uk/slugs-snails/](http://www.implementations.co.uk/slugs-snails/)

**Hans Gunther Kern** - Internationally experienced biodynamic gardener, teacher and consultant / passionately coaching others to optimise their health and wellbeing through gardening, exercising and nutrition.

**Slugs, snails and other pests** - in biodynamic gardening our highest aim is to work in harmony with nature and our environment while still growing fruit, veg, flowers, and where possible trees and shrubs. The biodynamic preparations help us to do that, however the vagaries of weather and the local environmental pollution work against us so that at times our garden feels it is far from being in harmony in itself. It is at times like this that slug, snails and other pests become just that - PESTS.

We need to be awake to the fact that gardening is a process in time and if we become too urgently heavy-handed we can upset potential or developing balance. Is this attack of slugs or other pests serious? Is it temporary? What can I do to restore the harmony and balance? Choosing to take the 'ashes' approach or homeopathy is quite a radical step and may not be the quickest and healthiest way to restore harmony, even if it is expedient. So, reflecting on developing the harmony of the whole before acting is a healthy approach.

### The Homeopathic Snail and Slug Repellent:

Helix tosta 6C is the homeopathic snail and slug repellent remedy. It is made from potentised toasted snail. Its energetic effect disappears rapidly after application, leaving only a more resilient plant that is completely safe to eat.

### Instructions for Use:

Just add one pill to each 200 ml of water, shake vigorously, and then spray or water your plants. One vial of 100 pills will make up 20 litres of snail and slug repellent. Plants will remain snail-free for up to 4 months following one treatment.

For more information visit: <https://homeopathyplus.com/helix-tosta-information/>