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On the snail trail

Slugs & Snails

Pest Control Services



Unbugged_®



Slugs & Snails

Characteristics

Slugs and snails are molluscs and move by means of a muscular “foot” which secretes mucus along which the animal glides. This mucus later dries to form the silver “slime trail” that confirms the presence of the animal.

Where to find slugs & snails

In the UK slugs and snails make their main impact in domestic gardens and only occur indoors when very damp conditions prevail. They are most active at night and during cloudy or rainy days. On sunny days both species seek hiding places away from the heat of the sun. During hot, dry periods, snails seal themselves off from the external environment by a membrane and often attach themselves to tree trunks, fences or walls. During cold weather slugs and snails hibernate in the topsoil.

Problems caused by slugs & snails

They feed on a variety of living plants as well as decaying plant matter, chewing irregular holes on the leaves of plants. They are a nuisance pest only and pose no threat to public health.





Life Cycle

Slugs and snails lay clusters of eggs (which are spherical and white in appearance) into holes or harbourages in topsoil. It can take up to 2 years for them to mature.

Control

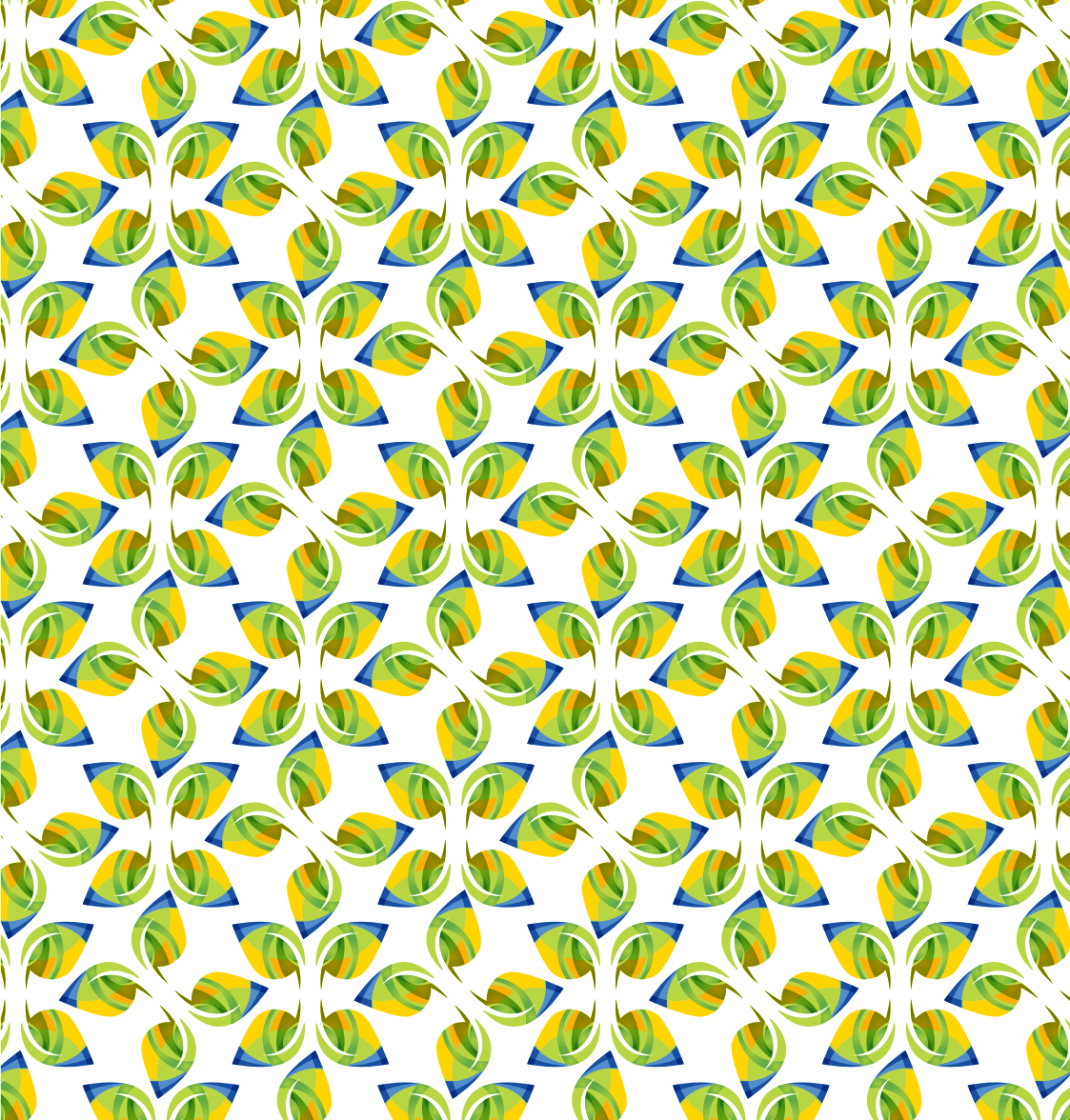
Eliminate, as far as practicable, all places where snails or slugs can hide during the day. Stones, debris and vegetation growing close to the ground giving dense ground cover make ideal harbourages.

Barriers comprising of sand, ashes, broken eggshells and soot are physically difficult for slugs to cross by being either too sharp or by drying up the mucous glands that are necessary for their movement.

Slug pellets are a useful form of chemical control. It is important to remove all poisoned slugs and snails as soon as possible to prevent the possibility of secondary poisoning of non-target animals such as birds, which may subsequently eat the poisoned animals.

Slugs and snails are not classed as public health pests and we do not provide a service to remove or treat them





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