



Slugs: How to Bait & Trap

Slugs, you either find them fascinating or, well, you are not a fan. There are numerous species of slugs that inhabit our natural surroundings, but one thing is for sure, they love to eat vegetation. While some like lettuce and cabbage, other species prefer to dine on tender seedlings and hostas. If you are green, you are fair game!

Tending your garden to reduce slugs

Slug eggs can be found abundantly in the soil and depending on the species, they can be in the “egg state” for years before hatching. Most often, the eggs are laid in clusters of two dozen eggs each and are oval-shaped white eggs. In the spring, cultivating your soil will kill hibernating slugs and eggs. Other effective gardening tips include hoeing to break up the clods of soil that slugs prefer; keep mulch pulled back from the base of your plants and clear your garden of any decaying matter (such as leaves).

Barriers

Some of these techniques have been found successful at keeping slugs away from your plants. For all of the suggestions that follow, place the mentioned items around the plants you want to protect:

- Copper strips: make a circle strip around plants
- Lava rock
- Cedar, oak bark or gravel chips
- Hair (human) or fur

Traps

Set our traps before nightfall when slugs are most active. Check them in the AM, to remove the slugs. Try these “natural” baits.

Sink a shallow can into the ground and bait with:

- Overripe fruit and beer (mash fruit and add beer)
- Inexpensive grape juice
- Honey-yeast bait: 1 T. brewer’s yeast, 1 T. honey, 1 T. cooking oil and 12 oz. water.
- Beer Batter Bait: 2 T. of flour with enough beer to make a thick batter. Put 1 t. in a small paper cup and lay cups on sides

For the above “recipes” you only need to coat the bottom of the container with enough bait to attract the slugs. *Also effective:* Dry dog food! Add enough water to make soft and then leave in small piles in areas frequented by slugs.

Slug Pub!

There have been studies conducted in which slugs prefer certain brands of beer! Research has proven (although the science behind this may be a bit unscientific), that slugs apparently prefer fresh beer and enjoy dark, stout brews. Why beer? Well, it’s not really the beer that attracts the slugs, but the smell of the fermenting yeast. Slimy Trails to you!

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