Ornamentals

There have been numerous studies on the attractiveness of plants to snails and slugs. Ornamentals in particular appear to be attractive to specific species of slugs and snails. **ERADICATE** has been shown to provide effective control of slugs and snails for a wide range of ornamentals.

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. For example, slugs are attracted to the buds of daffodils. Because slugs spend some time in the soil they often consume seeds or hollow out seeds. Generally, in Australia the slug problem is a severe problem in relatively small agricultural areas (the area around Esperance, relatively small areas in South Australia, Victoria and most of Tasmania) but tend to be more widespread in home gardens and horticulture because of higher soil moisture as a result of irrigation.

Slugs end their day returning to the soil or under stones or logs etc, and emerge at night for feeding. In ornamentals 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 do 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 ornamentals 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 ornamentals, 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 and 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.


Theba pisana


Cochlicella barbara

ABN: 21 660 932 121
4 Glenbarry Rd Campbellfield Vic 3061 | T: (03) 9357 5488 | F: (03) 9357 5388 | info@eradicatesnails.com.au
www.eradicatesnails.com.au