



## A Common Pest: The Snail

Not everything that visits your garden is as friendly to your plants as you are. Yes they all enjoy your garden but some creatures we call pests and they can be quite destructive.

Two of the most common pests are the snail and the slug. These feed away happily on the new young growth and can take a small seedling back to ground level. With spring approaching our gardens will become a smorgasbord for the snail as we enjoy the warmer days and plant the garden with our new summer vegetables.

Damp cool conditions attract snails and they often come out after a shower of rain or an evening watering of the garden. Slugs also enjoy damp conditions and they can be found hiding under bricks and pots. Both snails and slugs can hide under leafy growth close to the ground.

The snail comes out at night and leaves a silver trail as his calling card.

On a moonlight amble through your garden the snails can be spotted with a torch and they can be removed and dropped into a bucket of water and detergent.

We all love a coffee but snails and slugs do not like coffee grounds. If we scatter the coffee grounds around the garden they will mulch down into the soil and will keep the slimy pest away also. They do not like uneven surfaces so keeping a rough surface of mulch around your plants will deter the snails.

There are a few plants these pests do not like and some of them could be planted in and around your prize veges. The aroma of lavender and rosemary is not appreciated by the snails, also planting nasturtium and marigolds will deter other pests not just the snail.

A commercial snail bait could be used. When planting young seedlings, or when your seeds emerge, scatter snail bait around the plants. Scatter it so it covers a wider area. It is not a good idea to make little heaps of snail bait. This is readily available at supermarkets and nurseries and is now made pet friendly so if your puppy decides to sample the little green pellets you have on the ground he will not make himself sick.

