

Snail and slug deterrents

Yeast & Honey Mixture

Snails and slugs are attracted to the scent a mixture of yeast and honey. Boil some yeast and honey in water. The proportions aren't very critical, just mix some up.

- Put out a saucer filled with the yeast and honey mixture
- Sink it into the ground so the top of the saucer is at ground level
- Slugs and snails will get into the mixture and drown.

Keep in mind this will **only reliably kill slugs** if the trap is **deep** enough so that slugs can't reach over the top to get out. So in the case of slugs, use a deeper trap like a deep yogurt container, or a deep plastic cup. Something that is too deep for a slug to climb out of, so it drowns in the mixture

Check the container daily to make sure a frog or something else hasn't accidentally fallen in, and also to empty and refill every couple of days.

Hand Picking

Hand-picking and disposing of slugs and snails (including stomping on, throwing in the street, dropping in a bucket of salt water, etc.) does work, because if you gather up all the adults before they reproduce, things will get dramatically better, because the tiny ones you miss, don't do the most damage.

You can do this by day, or go out at night with a flashlight and gather slugs by hand and drop in soapy water in a container they can't climb out of.

Scratchy Things

Scratchy things such as crushed eggshells, sandpaper, cinders, wood ashes, and diatomaceous earth (this will need replacing if it gets wet), work well as a barrier. Again, this method will not kill the snails and slugs, but it will slow them down.

Another scratchy material they don't like to cross is sandpaper. You can make sandpaper collars to put around your plants if you have the inclination.

Cut doughnuts from sheets of sandpaper, or use used sandpaper discs from orbital sanders. Cut a slit to the centre of each circle, and slip the collars around the stems, laying the sandpaper discs on the ground.

Coffee Grounds

The alleged method of slug control using old coffee grounds, we think, amounts to gardening folklore because we have found it doesn't work very well.

If, however, you are a person who uses this method and swears by it, by all means continue! No sense in stopping something that works for you.

Herbal Repellent

Putting mint or sage in your mulch is reported to do a good job of repelling them. We have never tried this, but many people have sworn by using this mixture to repel slugs and snails. It won't kill them; apparently it just acts as a barrier.

Source: <http://www.weekendgardener.net/how-to/snails-slugs.htm>