

How to get rid of slugs:

1. Get plants on side

When wondering how to get rid of slugs, a gentle method is to use plants which deter them and act as a natural pesticide. This way, you can keep keep slugs at bay without chemicals. [Astrantia](#) gives off a scent that repels slugs. Other plants which deter slugs include wormwood, rue, fennel, anise and [rosemary](#).

2. Remove shelter & encourage beneficial wildlife

Slugs will seek out cover under bricks, [garden furniture](#) and large logs. Remove potential slug shelters to expose them to natural predators. By making your garden an unsuitable habitat for slugs to survive in, the problem will naturally decline. Encourage natural predators such as toads, newts, hedgehogs and song thrushes to take care of the problem.

3. Make a beer trap or Make your own mix

One easy and inexpensive way to get rid of slugs is a beer trap. Create one by burying half a container near vulnerable plants and half filling it with beer. Alternatively, look out for [purpose-made beer traps](#). The scent of the beer will lure slugs, which then fall in and get stuck. Keep the rim of the container 2-3cm above the ground to avoid catching slug-eating ground beetles.

Make a beer substitute.

Ingredients: 2 cups water, 2tsp sugar, 2 tsp flour, and 1 tsp yeast.

Mix and pour into soil level containers in the garden.

4. Create a prickly barrier

Slugs are soft-bodied mollusks so sharp, prickly barriers are a great way to deter them from precious plants. Use crushed egg shells, pine needles or thorny cuttings to create barriers and recycle unwanted leftovers and foliage. Another great material to use is [sharp sand](#). Just check whatever you're using won't alter the soil quality.

5. Create a slippery barrier

Spraying [WD40 or Cooking oil](#) on the outside of plant pots will make the surface too slippery for the slugs to scale them, effectively protecting your container plants.

6. Lay down copper tape

Copper reacts with slug slime, giving a tiny electric shock to slugs each time they come into contact with it. Lay down self-adhesive [copper tape](#) in your garden to deter slugs from reaching your plants. The tape can be attached to greenhouse staging, potted plants, raised beds – anything that needs protecting from these hungry mollusks.

7. Place a lure

Leave a pile of old lettuce leaves or dried cat food in a damp and shady corner to attract a large number of slugs. As they all congregate by the food source, scoop up the perpetrators and dispose of them *en masse*. Couple this technique with taking torchlit night walks in your garden to catch slugs on the move. Slugs love citrus so using the rinds acts an effective lure too.

8. Apply nematodes to soil

[Nematodes](#) are soil-dwelling micro-organisms which are parasites to slugs. Simply mix them with water and apply to the soil. The soil temperature needs to be in excess of 5C in order for the treatment to be effective.

9. Sprinkle salt or Diatomaceous earth

Sprinkle salt on pesky slugs to kill them, but avoid sprinkling it too much as plants are also adversely affected by an excess of salt. It's therefore best used when far away from valuable plants.

10. The eco-method

Being on the lower end of the food chain, the unfortunate fate of the slug is to provide nourishment for carnivorous predators. Encourage chickens or ducks into your garden to reduce the resident slug population.

Chickens make great pets and can provide you with daily, free-range eggs while reducing the presence of slugs. Consider [adopting an ex-commercial farming hen](#).

11. Snail & Slug Bait

Iron Phosphate – Sprinkle around slug's favorite plants in the evening. Bait is considered safe around pets.