

# ABOUT SLUGS

**SLUGS** can be as small as a pea or as big as your thumb, but all leave a trail of slime behind as they move. Their favorite habitat is moist leaves, mulch and soil, and densely planted gardens - our gardens! This is also where they like to lay their eggs.

**DAMAGE** Slugs and snails feed most intensely at night or during periods of rainy weather. Slug damage is characterized by holes with smooth edges on leaves, chew-marks on radishes, and small seedlings can actually be consumed entirely.

**HOST PLANTS** Beans, lettuce, cabbages, tomatoes and many other garden plants.



## PREVENTION

- **HAND PICK** (wear rubber gloves) and place in a pail of soapy water.
- Place a board over wet soil between rows. Lift the board in the morning to see if you have trapped any slugs.
- Pull mulch away from plants that are vulnerable to slug damage.
- **NATURAL PREDATORS** - frogs, toads, snakes, ground beetles, firefly larvae, songbirds, chickens, ducks.
- Slugs cannot cross anything sharp - sprinkle ground-up eggshells or use diatomaceous earth.
- Slugs get a mild electric shock when crossing a copper barrier. Use copper tape or old copper tubing.

## MANAGING OUTBREAKS

- Try **PIT TRAPS** - place 1 inch of beer in a shallow open container sunk in the soil.
- Try **BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL** - invisible to the eye, the bacterial-feeding nematode *Phasmarhabditis hermaphrodita* makes short work of slugs.

## TIPS

You can usually spot a glistening trail of slime on leaves first thing in the morning.