

## SLUGS : Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

### Facts and Notes

Slugs are not insects; they are soft-bodied mollusks. This can be a problem in the home landscape, vegetable garden, or fruit garden. These snail-like creatures, minus shells, leave a damp film of mucus wherever they travel. can cause significant damage to desired plants if their population is left unchecked. This film and the ragged holes in plants are tell-tale evidence of their presence. They can often be found traveling across walks soon after a rain. Slugs & Snails reproduce quickly and have multiple generations per year. Slugs prefer damp places. They hide under old boards, moldy leaves, and stones. One way to get rid of them is to clean out these hideouts. Another favorite haunt is under the decorative bricks often used to edge flower beds.

The other way is to go after them with various chemicals. Females of most species can give birth to live young, meaning that within a few days in the summertime, numbers can increase.

### Slugs Commonly Found in KAUST



Slugs (*Leidyula spp*)

### Pest Control procedures in managing pests

1. Check the plants for signs of infestation. slugs leave a trail, so look for shiny streaks on foliage and silver-grey slime trails appearing on the plant, soil or pots.
2. Implement control following the applicable IPM principles, starting with:
  - **Cultural Control** - Simple steps prevent serious slug infestations. They like succulent, nourishing new growth, hence raking the soil frequently with controlled irrigation to wet soils can reduce their breeding.
  - **Mechanical Control** – Install slug traps made from empty plastic pots (e.g., large yogurt pots) buried to half their depth in the soil and filled with milk and water. The slugs will climb up the sides, enter the tub, and be killed.
  - **Chemical Control** - If other methods fail, apply insecticides as a broadcast treatment with a granulated mixture to the affected area in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer, using an approved pesticide namely Metarol 5GR (*Metaldehyde 5% G*)
3. Monitor the area after the treatment. Follow up if the slugs persist. Keep a record for future evaluation.

### What you can do to prevent Slugs in your garden

- A barrier method with a physical barrier between the slugs and your precious plants, can be a deterrent using a dry, gritty substance like sand or ash.
- Maintain good sanitary conditions, remove any garbage and debris from your backyards and gardens.
- Cooperate with the service provider during treatment activities by keeping yourself and your pets in a safe place.
- Report sightings or request assistance by contacting the Horticulture and Pest Control Department or via C&C Call center by calling 959 from any landline.