

SNAILS: Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

Facts and Notes

Snails will eat almost any plant, but they prefer young plants, tender foliage of young and leafy plants. Their presence is indicated by missing seedlings or large, irregularly shaped holes on leaves. They may leave glossy slime tracks on leaves. In general, snails dislike plants with leaves that are glossy, waxy, or hairy. They also seem to avoid plants with strong-smelling foliage, such as rosemary, marigolds, and lavender.

Snails are pests of moist temperate climates, but their hard calcium shell protects them. Like slugs, snails overwinter in the soil and emerge in spring to lay hundreds of eggs near the soil surface. Young snails feed immediately, especially at night and in wet weather. Populations fluctuate depending on the weather. Snails are found throughout KAUST gardens and parks.

Snails Commonly Found in KAUST



Garden Snail



White Garden Snail



Brown-Lipped Snail



Gray-foot Lancetooth Snail

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. IPM-guided essential control mainly:
 - **Cultural Control** - Dry plant leaves prevents snails. Allow air circulation between plants. Thin out crowded plants and remove hiding spots like boards and buckets. Morning watering lets plants dry before evening.
 - **Mechanical Control** - Handpick and destroy snails by dropping them in a jar of soapy water. Use a snail trap and sink them into the soil to trap snails.
 - **Chemical Control** - If other methods fail, administer pesticide broadcast to the affected area in accordance with the label claim of the chemical product, such as Metarol 5GR (*Metaldehyde 5% G*)
3. Monitor the plants condition after the treatment. It is recommended to keep record for future evaluation.

What you can do to prevent Snails in your garden

- Maintain good sanitary conditions, remove any boards or bucket from your backyards and gardens.
- Avoid watering your garden at night and avoid always keeping the soil damp to prevent snails from attacking your garden.
- 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.