

**Response to Information Request on Metaldehyde Use
April 27, 2007**

Rick,

I had an interesting mix of comments on this one. Some indicated that snails and slugs are not much of an issue in our low dessert areas, with the possible exception of nursery plants. Bob Roth, Resident Director at the Maricopa Ag Center, described terrible problems with slugs many years back (mid 70s) plugging irrigation lines in ag areas. At that time, he used a product called Purina 4X, but he had no knowledge of metaldehyde.

I had the following comments from Terry Mikel, Area Agent in commercial horticulture: "I could not figure out the questionnaire IRT responding. . . Fortunately we are so dry that snails and slugs are more commonly a nursery plant issue. . . They might come with some new stock only to dry and wither in our climate. . . Unfortunately, many people see the Deccollate snail and think treatment is needed. . . So some of the snail baits get used but I have no real knowledge of how often, how much and/or it's effectiveness. . ."

Jeff Schalau, Yavapai county agent was the one to partially complete the survey questions. I've pasted the survey form with his responses in **bold** below.

In summary, neither slugs/snails nor changes in metaldehyde availability appear to be a big concern for us. I had no responses from my few contacts outside of Arizona.

Questions for USDA Data-Gathering on Use/Usage of Metaldehyde and Other Slug/Snail Controls

How serious a problem are snails and slugs in your Region for the following situations:

In agriculture (by crop, if possible please), specifically, are snails and slugs economic pests?

Home/garden?

Pubic lands (particularly parks)?

In all situations, it is spotty and localized. I don't think I've ever gotten a call regarding snail control, but I know they exist in some areas.

How is metaldehyde (ex. Slugit, Deadline, Corry's Slug and Snail Death) used your in the Region?

Rates?

How often is it used per season or crop cycle?

What are the intervals between applications?

How is it applied?

What are the uses and usage of metaldehyde alternatives in the Region? Examples may include:

Methiocarb (Mesuro)

Iron phosphate (ex. Sluggo, Escar-go,
Schultz Garden Safe Slug and Snail Bait, Worry Free Slug and Snail)

Coconut oil soap (Concern SlugStop)
Copper sulfate slurry or Bordeaux mixture

Metallic copper strips or foil (ex. Snail-Barr)

Decollate snails

Decollate snails exist in the Verde River corridor between Cottonwood and Camp Verde.

How efficacious are the chemical controls for snails and slugs?

They would probably work well.

How effective are nonchemical controls in reducing snail/slug damage?

Probably also fairly well.

What cultural controls are used if any and how effective are they in the agricultural settings?

Prevention/sanitation of equipment to prevent colonization.

Are there any use sites for which growers/users view metaldehyde as critical to production or aesthetics? If so, why?

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If applicable, please provide research contacts in your Region who have looked into relative efficacy of slug/snail pesticides (or other aspects of slug/snail control).

None known

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