

(revision date:4/11/2018)

## ***Cucumber, Pumpkin, Squash: Slugs***

*Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.*

### ***Biology***

Slugs are common garden pests in western Washington. They resemble snails, but lack shells. They may vary in size from as little as 1/4" up to several inches in length, depending on age and species. Foliage of older plants is raggedly chewed, while younger plants may be totally consumed. Slugs leave behind a characteristic slime trail, which appears silvery when it dries. Slugs typically feed at night and do more damage during cool, moist weather.

### ***Management Options***

#### **Non-Chemical Management**

- ~ Encourage predators such as birds, garter snakes, frogs, ducks, and predacious ground beetles. Avoid use of broad-spectrum insecticides which kill beneficial insects.
- ~ Hand-pick and kill slugs when noticed.
- ~ Clean up weeds and debris which may provide shelter. Cut tall weeds and grasses around the garden and clean up rocks, boards, and other shelters.
- ~ Trap slugs with cans of stale beer sunk into the ground.
- ~ Use chemical baits with caution, as pets can be poisoned. Iron phosphate-based baits are safer for pets!

***Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!***

#### **Chemical Management**

***IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides***

Broadcast to seedbed around border and between rows. Do not apply directly to plants. NOTE: Lilly Miller Slug & Snail Bait is registered for use on CUCUMBER AND SQUASH ONLY.

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**Images**



~ Caption: Slug damage and slime  
~ Photo by: R.S. Byther



~ Caption: Brown slug  
~ Photo by: C.R. Foss



~ Caption: Slug damage on iris  
~ Photo by: A.L. Antonelli



~ Caption: Slug  
~ Photo by: C.R. Foss



~ *Caption: Slug damage on tulip*  
~ *Photo by: A.L. Antonelli*