

Slugs and Snails love it to death.



Introducing Dusk™ - a non-hazardous and highly effective bait for the control of slugs and snails in horticultural and agricultural crops. More tasty to slugs and snails - they love it to death.

Dusk™ is a unique combination of a core based granule with an iron complex active ingredient which provides unsurpassed control efficacy. This is due to its highly selective activity on slugs and snails, the attractiveness of the bait coating, its excellent resistance to rainfall and superior coverage achieved by the small and even sized granules.

Some products control no more than 40-50% of slug problems. Control with Dusk™ is typically around 90%*.

Dusk is non-toxic and safe to the environment, wildlife and pets.

Invite slugs and snails to dinner at Dusk™ - they'll love it to death.

*Research figures supplied by Axis Associates

www.orionagriscience.co.nz

For more information contact Orion AgriScience Ltd. Freephone: 0800 674 6627

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Building a better slug bait

The use of slug baits is familiar to most NZ growers, however the knowledge about different products and the critical success factors are less well understood.

The two key components of any slug pellet are the active ingredient and the bait matrix. With an array of choices for both, a new formulation has been developed to provide NZ growers with a proven, more cost-effective option.

The main brands of slug pellets in NZ are based on the active ingredients metaldehyde and methiocarb. Expert opinion on the relative merits of these two products varies considerably. Products based on both these active ingredients can be effective although when utilised in conventional extruded pellet formulations slug mortality in trials is often less than 50 per cent. Both metaldehyde and methiocarb are also extensively used in home and garden situations where care needs to be taken to avoid accidental poisoning of domestic pets. A more recent development has seen the emerging use of a low toxicity iron complex as a slug bait active ingredient. Ferric ethylene tetraacetate sodium salt (FeEDTA Na) is a compound that is used as an iron supplement in food and feedstuffs. It presents little danger to the environment, wildlife or domestic pets yet has proved to be a highly effective molluscicide.

Most slug bait formulations are produced by the extrusion of a matrix consisting of the active ingredient, edible cereal based carrier and additives. Conventional extruded pellets are relatively inexpensive to make but have a number of deficiencies that lead to poor efficacy. The main issues are lack of durability (they swell rapidly when wet and disintegrate during rainfall) and large or variable size leading to uneven distribution. In addition many of these products are not highly attractive to slugs. These problems have led to the development of improved extruded baits utilising high grade cereal base and made by a wet extrusion process. Such products have improved durability plus the pellets tend to be smaller and more evenly shaped to assist with better distribution.

The most recently developed bait is a core based granule. In these formulations the active ingredient is blended with highly palatable ingredients and the mixture is applied as an outer coating over an inert carrier or 'chip'. This has several advantages. First the bait is highly durable – even in wet conditions. Second, the bait size is relatively small and evenly sized to provide better application coverage. Finally the active ingredient is concentrated in the edible outer coating and as such is more readily available and readily consumed compared to extruded pellets where the active ingredient is spread throughout the pellet.

Axis Associates is an innovative NZ based R and D company whose personnel pioneered development of core based granular slug baits. They have now combined their leading granular technology with the highly effective iron complex active ingredient and coating matrix ingredients that are more palatable to slugs. The result is Dusk slug and snail bait - a novel, non-hazardous and highly effective slug bait for the control of slugs and snails in horticultural and agricultural crops.

In partnership with Orion AgriScience, Dusk is now available to NZ growers. The unique combination of the core based pellet with the iron complex active ingredient provides unsurpassed efficacy due to the highly selective activity on slugs and snails, attractiveness of the bait coating, excellent resistance to rainfall and excellent coverage of the relatively small and even sized pellets. In addition the product is non toxic and safe to the environment, wildlife and pets.

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