

## Slug control (OAF leaflet No12 produced 2015)



At Orchard Acre Farm we use a variety of methods to *control* slugs from damaging our crops.

Please note the word CONTROL, we will never eradicate slugs, neither would we want to! Believe it or not they do a very valuable job of cleaning up. We gardeners just make it easy for slugs, by planting tasty food in neat rows in a concentrated space.

### Slug CONTROL METHODS used at orchard Acre Farm

**Our first and most important** way to control slugs is to boost the population and the improve the habitat of the natural predators who actually enjoy eating slugs and slug eggs.

They include

- Black ground beetles
- Frogs
- Birds many spp (who especially love the eggs!!)

**The second phase is to physically trap the slugs.** We use slug pubs. **Yes this method kills the slugs**, but that does not concern me greatly. There are a few endangered snail species worth protecting, but they are not frequent visitors to vegetable, fruit plots and gardens!

### **Why not make your own slug pub.**

Use a container as shown in the picture, bury it into the soil up to the level of the bottom of the “window,” fill with beer. The slugs are attracted to the smell of the yeast. They cannot resist. They slither in and die... pissed I guess. Periodic emptying of the container is required. Caution! Partially decomposed slugs; makes foul smelling goo! It can be put safely on compost.



**You will need a minimum of 1 container per metre square to be affective. Pub and hotels are good sources of slop beer.**

**The third action** is to **STOP WATERING LATE IN THE EVENING!!!!** Slugs need moisture to move **and** they are nocturnal. Late evening watering creates perfect conditions for slugs to get about. Come up with a different watering schedule!

**The forth Action** is barrier method, which we rarely use for individual plants, but much of our vegetable beds are surrounded by gravel which helps reduce the movement.

**Finally** we also use **organic NON toxic slug pellets**, especially when we transplant, as the plants are tender and very vulnerable. Our experience is that once a plant becomes established, a certain amount of damage can be tolerated.