

### **Allotment Pests – Slugs and Snails**

It can be quite frustrating having garden pests on your allotment undoing all the good work and eating the fruits of your labour.

- Removing the slime trails that slugs and snails leave stops them sending messages to other snails and slugs about where the good stuff is to eat. A spray bottle with a small amount of vinegar mixed with water, sprayed onto the trails will wash away the slime information and stop them coming en masse to eat your crops.
- Pots containing your young seedlings, can be mulched with sharp grit to deter the slimy critters.
- Alternatively, cutting a disc of sand-paper the size of the pot with a central hole and placing it over a seedling will deter them.
- Save your egg shells, wash and then dry them in a warm oven. Scrunch them up and scatter round the soil in pots or around young plants in the ground. The sharp edges deter them.
- If you eat grapefruit, save the empty halves and cut a small entrance hole on the edge so that when placed on the floor it looks like a little igloo. Put this on your plot and the snails and slugs will climb inside to eat the remaining pulp. They can then be removed and dispatched.
- Having 2-3 cm of beer in a jar and burying it to near the top in the soil is effective. Slugs and snails crawl in and lap up the beer rendering them useless. The jar can then be taken to a place where they can do no damage and tipped out and left to deal with their hangovers.

*Abridged version of contribution by Lizze Brooker to September 2024 newsletter*