

# Slinky, slimy slugs on the loose



**KYM POKORNY**  
Your Garden

ers. More sturdy plants like ferns, sedums, ornamental grasses, bleeding heart, heuchera, hellebores and most herbs fend them off reasonably well. Woody plants are also usually unbothered.

“What slugs want is a place that’s warm and moist,” said Claudia Groth, an Oregon State University Extension Service master gardener. “That’s why they’ll be coming out soon. The soil temperatures are getting to be above 50 degrees, which is perfect for them.”

Slugs aren’t crazy about winter and summer. They bail from cold or hot weather. But fall and spring are agreeable seasons for slugs. In the perfect conditions of autumn when the heat starts to wane and the first rains come, the mollusks lay eggs in clusters called clutches, according to Groth, a horticulturist who has made slugs her specialty.

The eggs hatch fairly rapidly, and the fast-growing slugs wait it out, showing up in spring to scrape and shred plant leaves with tongues lined with thousands of tiny, extremely sharp teeth.

“In fall, you’re trying to kill them off before they lay eggs,” she said. “Now that your plants are poking their heads up, you need to protect them, because once the leaves are nipped, the damage is there all summer.”

The pests are particularly fond of lettuce and other salad greens, broccoli, beans, hostas, strawberries, primroses and daffodil flow-

ers. More sturdy plants like ferns, sedums, ornamental grasses, bleeding heart, heuchera, hellebores and most herbs fend them off reasonably well. Woody plants are also usually unbothered.

“Many gardeners grow plants tightly in their beds to keep weeds from growing,” Groth said. “That’s an environment that provides them with a 100 percent hiding place all day.”

Slugs will crawl beneath almost anything where it’s dark and moist, including boards, bricks, pots, loose stepping stones and pavers, debris left lying in the garden.

“So the first thing to do when starting a control program is to clean up the garden,” she said. “Don’t leave things all over the yard. They can even hide under garden gloves.”

Raise pots onto bricks or “legs” purchased for that purpose. Pull mulch away from favorite plants. Remove weeds where the pests like to nestle down. Tidy under porches and other raised structures.

Although sanitation is the first line of defense, there are plenty of other methods for control. Get started now. Young plants are most susceptible. Here are Groth’s recommendations:

Water in the morning. “If you water in the evening, it’s



wet until early in the morning and you’ve given them the best environment when they come out at night hungry,” she said.

Put out beer traps. Use a pie plate or bury a plastic yogurt or margarine container up to about an inch from the rim. Pour in beer. Remove dead slugs daily and refill with beer.

Don’t use salt. It can build up in the soil and damage plants.

Attract predators such as frogs, ground beetles and, yes, snakes.

Create an artificial hiding place by placing a board in their favorite places. To make it especially attractive, grind up lettuce and brewer’s yeast (not baker’s yeast) and put that under the board. In the morning, lift the board and remove slugs. Drop them in a bucket of soapy water.

Go out at night with a flashlight or head lamp and handpick them.

Get a duck, which will make a quick dinner out of slugs, but be sure to check

with your city first. Some don’t allow them and there are restrictions.

Tape a wide (3-4 inches) strip of copper around the top of a pot or the top edge of a raised bed.

Also, you can use bait. There are two types. One is a synthetic bait that contains metaldehyde, which is toxic to humans and can be fatal to dogs if eaten in large amounts. The other contains iron phosphate, which is considered very low in toxicity, according to the National Pesticide Information Center at OSU, but has been known to sicken dogs in high amounts. It can be used in organic vegetable gardens.

When baiting, scatter rather than making piles or bands. “If you use piles or bands,” she explained, “slugs can go right by. If you scatter, they’re likely to encounter it.” Also, be sure to look on the label to see how much to use per square foot. It’s a lot less than most people think. Using more is not better.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 8A

### TUESDAY, MAY 16

• **Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Club** — 6 to 7 p.m. weigh-in, 7 to 8 p.m. meeting, First Christian Church basement, 1079 SE Jefferson St., Dallas. Meetings offer programs and activities aimed at losing weight. Open to anyone. First meeting is free.

• **Dallas Wingdingers RC Flying Club** — 7 p.m., Whitworth Elementary School library, 1151 SE Miller Ave., Dallas. 503-623-7288.

• **Polk County Coin Club** — 7 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 503-362-9123.

• **Overeaters Anonymous** — Noon to 1 p.m., Salem Health West Valley, 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. Support group meets in the quiet room/chapel immediately inside the emergency entrance on Clay Street. Dee Ann White, 971-718-6444.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

• **Willamette Valley Food Assistance Program Food Bank** — 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., 888 Monmouth Cutoff Road, Building E, Dallas. Weekly distribution for eligible community members. 503-831-5634.

• **Day-2-Day Diabetes Support Group** — 3 to 4 p.m., Salem Health West Valley (main conference room inside main entrance), 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. 503-623-7323.



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## MI TOWN



**PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER**  
Columnist

and Saturday are from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Master Gardeners will be on hand to help with purchases of vegetable and flower garden items, and there will be ongoing programs all day — both days. You’ll be able to find just the right Mother’s Day basket or flowering plant and just about anything you’ll need to brighten up your home and garden.

Veterans and their family members are invited to the Monmouth Senior Center for the annual Armed Forces Day celebration on May 19.

Veterans from any war, and men and women who are now serving in the military are welcome to share stories, photographs and other memories from 10 a.m. until noon. There will be an ice-cream social following the program at 1 p.m. The senior center is located at 180 Warren St. S. in Monmouth.

Mark your calendars early for Independence-Monmouth Clean-up and Beautification Day, scheduled for May 20 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Riverview Park in Independence. Cost is \$10 per load for MI residents and \$12 for those living in Polk County. Please contact Shannon at Monmouth Public Works (503-838-2173) for more information. Elderly and disabled residents needing assistance may call Shannon (above) or the In-

dependence Police Department (503-838-1214) by May 19 for information regarding assistance. Let’s work together to help keep our communities looking good for all of us — and the springtime and summer visitors to MI Town.

Life shouldn’t be all work, however. How about enjoying an evening, or an afternoon at a play? Central High School’s drama department presents Walt Disney’s, “Aladdin Jr.” over the next several days and evenings, Wednesday (today) through Saturday, and May 17 through 20. The performances on Wednesday (today) and May 20 have special prices for students, \$3 with ID. There are matinees, a pizza party where you can meet the performers, and evening performances. See you there.

**INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8**  
450 S. 2nd St., Independence  
Showtimes 503-606-3000  
www.IndependenceCinema8.com

Matinees are all shows before 6pm. New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$8.00 Children \$7.00 • Senior \$7.25  
Pricing does not reflect 3D showings.

Friday - Wednesday • May 12 - 17				
BOSS BABY (Digital) (PG)	(12:10* 2:30 4:50)	7:10	9:30	
★ GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 2 (Digital) (PG13)	(2:00 5:00)	6:00	8:00	
★ GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 2 (Digital) (PG13)	(12:00* 3:00)	6:00	9:00	
★ GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 2 (Digital) (PG13)	(12:30 3:30)	6:30	9:30	
<b>KING ARTHUR:</b>				
LEGEND OF THE SWORD (Digital) (PG13)	(1:00 3:50)	6:40	9:35	
GIFTED (Digital) (PG13)	(12:05* 5:00)	7:20		
THE CIRCLE (Digital) (PG13)	(2:25)	9:40		
SNATCHED (Digital) (R)	(12:40 2:55 5:10)	7:25	9:40	
THE FATE OF THE FURIOUS (PG13)	(12:45 3:45)	6:45	9:45	
*Not showing Monday-Wednesday, May 15-17.				
Thursday • May 18				
BOSS BABY (Digital) (PG)	(2:30 4:50)	7:10	9:30	
★ GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 2 (Digital) (PG13)	(2:00 3:00)	6:00	9:00	
★ GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 2 (Digital) (PG13)	(12:30 3:30)	6:30	9:30	
<b>KING ARTHUR:</b>				
LEGEND OF THE SWORD (Digital) (PG13)	(1:00 3:50)	6:40	9:35	
ALIEN: COVENANT (Digital) (R)		7:00	9:45	
GIFTED (Digital) (PG13)		7:20		
DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL (Digital) (PG)	(5:00)			
THE CIRCLE (Digital) (PG13)	(2:25)	9:40		
SNATCHED (Digital) (R)	(12:40 2:55 5:10)	7:25	9:40	
THE FATE OF THE FURIOUS (PG13)	(12:45 3:45)	6:45	9:45	
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## PEDEE NEWS



**ARLENE KOVASH**  
Columnist

Logan, Utah, in the 1800s. A good hike was the Wind Cave Trail in Logan Canyon, because the so-called cave was unusual. The trail was also very steep.

Tim Barnhart and Dave Burbank lead a group of 21 men into the Southern Oregon desert last weekend for

Pedee Church’s annual Rat Camp. A focus this year was a six-event competition that ranged from open sight .22 rifle shooting, to axe throwing, to long-distance target shooting. Eric Twenge won a gift card to Cabela’s with his superior skill, and Glenn Mott came in second. These guys were good. Despite below freezing temperatures, 10-year-old Alex Russell kept warm at night in a hay bale house. Saturday evening, Eric Schwanke shared from scripture on what greatness is in God’s eyes.

Laree Jones, 92, died on May 2. She lived in the area for years and was a member of the Pedee Women’s Club. She and her sisters-in-law, Ruth Stafford and Nella Cates, were the originators of the club candy-making for Pedee’s holiday fair. They learned to make candy as young women living in Utah and called their business Nelar Candy. The women of the club learned all their secrets and make delicious candy, but still didn’t quite have the touch these three women had and were sorry when they no longer had their help.

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**Polk County Bounty Market**  
Thursdays!  
May - September  
General Vendors  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Featuring Growers, Producers & Artisans of the Polk County area & beyond!  
182 Academy St., Dallas (corner of Main & Academy)  
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