

Slugs, Snails Pose Grower Problems; OSU Entomologist Studies Controls

A European species of garden slug and a plant-eating snail are spreading through the Northwest, posing a new problem for flower gardeners, vegetable growers and ranchers, reports Dr. Hamblin Crowell, Oregon State university entomologist.

Weapons against them are few, because chemical companies in the past have not considered the land relatives of clams and oysters enough of a problem to bother developing an effective pesticide for controlling them, he added.

The European black slug, first found in the Portland area in the 1940's, is a ravenous feeder on most types of vegetation and seeks shrubbery, ground cover plants and piles of debris for shelter. The mollusks, which range in color from black through brick red, are gradually spreading throughout the Northwest and appear to be replacing the more familiar gray garden slug.

Introduced From Europe

The other invader, the brown garden snail, was introduced 100 years ago into California from Europe where it is considered a delicacy. The 1 1/2-inch brown speckled snail is not yet a pest in Oregon, but colonies have been found at Coquille and Seaside and at Long Beach, Wash. They also appear to be spreading, Crowell noted.

The two animals differ in that a snail has an external shell into which it can withdraw, while a slug has only a shell rudiment enclosed within its body.

Slugs, which so far are the only land mollusks of economic importance in Oregon, have few natural enemies and are unaffected by most pesticides, the scientist explained. For some 25 years, the only weapon against them was a chemical called metaldehyde, which has not been entirely satisfactory.

Slugs May Recover

Metaldehyde—the active ingredient in most slug baits—sometimes only paralyzes the pests, Crowell said. If a period of cool, damp weather follows, they may recover without ill effects.

Another difficulty is the "zero tolerance" the Food and Drug administration has set on metaldehyde. This means that no trace

must remain on products for human consumption.

Crowell emphasized that the tolerance was set not because the chemical is particularly poisonous to man, but because no one has wanted to spend the time and money needed to prove higher levels are safe.

Damage Many Crops

Oregon weather is ideal for periodic outbreaks of slugs, Crowell declared. The animals multiply rapidly during a cool, wet spring and, while not as spectacular as some insect epidemics, they do much damage to crops such as lettuce, beans and clover.

Crowell is working on an OSU Agricultural Experiment station project to find alternate methods of controlling them. Although an entomologist, whose traditional field is insects, he became interested in land mollusks because they damage plants in much the same ways as insects.

The scientist, who keeps several thousand slugs and snails for study, has been experimenting with biological controls. He found that a species of mite will attack and kill slugs under laboratory conditions, but in nature mite populations have not been observed to get high enough to be effective.

Other Controls Tested

Another possibility is a chemical fertilizer called Cyanamid. Crowell has found that 300 pounds per acre—about double the normal application—will kill 80 to 85 percent. A herbicide also has been useful on corn and beans if applied early enough, he said.

A species of fly larva has been reported as a possible parasite on slugs, but it has not been tested yet by Crowell.

FARM BUREAU FURROW
By SCOTT LAMB
Information Director

Huge Welfare State?

This session of congress may well go down in American history as marking the death knell of representative government and the birth of an expanded welfare state ruled by centralized federal power.

The so-called Medicare bill, which perverts the original concept of the social security system, is now law. It is the first step toward a complete system of medical and hospital care under the complete domination of the federal government.

The U.S. Senate is currently considering a constitutional amendment which would permit states to decide how they should elect their legislators. If this amendment fails, rural and farm people will lose their right to representative government.

The U.S. House has voted to remove Section 14 (b) of the Taft-Hartley law, and if the U.S. Senate follows this lead, 19 states will lose their right to work laws. Human and state rights will be lost to central government and the labor czars.

The U.S. House has voted for an expanded anti-poverty program and has stripped state governors of any veto power over projects in their states. There is speculation that the real objective of the anti-poverty program is not to provide jobs or education for the poor and untrained, but to build a political following of poverty clients who will receive their voting instructions directly from the party chiefs in Washington.

At the moment there appears to be no impediment to the fanatical drive of the administration toward a gigantic welfare state. Even the war in Viet Nam serves as a cloak and distraction to conceal what is happening to state rights and representative government in the United States.

The old political pork barrel projects of the past now appear as puny devices when compared with the direct pipeline from the federal treasury to the millions of Medicare and anti-poverty program clients. This pipeline will be enlarged with rent subsidies under a new federal housing law.

A cynical observer of the current scene recently suggested that he was postponing the purchase of a new car as he had heard rumors of a possible subsidy to persons who needed autos to reach their places of employment.

Sound incredible? So did rent subsidies, but even now there are those who say they are not as bad as they sound. Perhaps we can look forward to nationwide advertising campaigns which will suggest that you see your smiling Uncle Sam, the friendly car dealer.

Grange Women Plan Booster Night; Elect New 1965-66 Officers

Home Economics club members of Oregon Trail Grange met Monday afternoon at the home of Marguerite Moss with nine women present. Roll call was answered by members telling their favorite TV program.

Plans were completed for Booster night to be held on Oct. 21 and discussion was held regarding 4-H club night and a banquet for Grange Insurance officials.

Election of officers was held and the following members were elected: Orm. Cleaver, president; Polly Holub, vice president; and Iva Adams, renamed treasurer.

Refreshments were served by the hostess.

Next meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 1, at the home of Janis Stam, with Polly Holub as co-hostess.

Journal Names New Correspondent To Report Buena Vista Activities

(Beginning with this issue, Mrs. Glenn (Helen) Hoffman is new correspondent for the Buena Vista community. The Journal publishers ask area residents to cooperate by giving her any news items which they feel will be of interest to relatives, neighbors and friends.)

By Helen Hoffman

BUENA VISTA—Mr. and Mrs. Russell Talbot visited from Friday until Sunday afternoon with the Buster Talbot family at Westfall.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hoffman were Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. Blanche Hoffman.

Visitors From Kansas

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Garwood of Auburn, Kan., arrived Friday evening to visit their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Piercy and family.

Mr. and Mrs. George Nesbitt and son, Spencer of Wenatchee, Wash., visited from Thursday to Saturday in the Alva Goodell home.

Navyman Calls Mother

Mrs. Edith Whipple received a long distance telephone call Sunday evening from her son, Kenneth, who is in the Submarine division of the U.S. Navy at New London, Conn. Mrs. Teddie Rookstool of Orovada, Nev., spent the weekend with her mother, Mrs. Whipple.

Gary, Brian, Don and Alan Cleaver hunted near Juntura last week and returned home with four deer.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Morrett of Benton, Wash., visited Sunday afternoon in the Esther Stephen home.

Mrs. Gene Fisher of Meridian was a Monday visitor at the Eugene Stephen home.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Ekanger and family of Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Richesin and family were Saturday dinner guests of the Andrew Ekangers.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Corfield and daughter, Robin of Pendleton, visited from Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon with his mother and sister, Mrs. Clara Corfield and Mrs. Emily Myers.

Mrs. William Guthrie spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Tanner. Corporal Guthrie, her husband, left last Thursday for Fort Lee, Va. He is a paratrooper in the U.S. Army.

William Orrs Return

Mr. and Mrs. William Orr recently moved back to this community from Richland, Wash. Melissa and Terry Cleaver stayed with their grandparents, the Orrs, while their parents were hunting.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Cleaver, John, Carl and Dave; Mr. and Mrs. LaVern Cleaver, Karey, Leslie, Kim and Kevin; Eugene Cleaver, Calvin and Darrel hunted during the weekend near Ironside. The Leslie Cleavers returned home Sunday evening with three deer. Other members of the party remained for a longer hunt.

Edith Ann and Merry Joyce Corfield and Terry Neely were recent guests of their grandmother, Mrs. Edith Whipple, while their mother, Mrs. Dick Province, accompanied Mrs. Teddie Rookstool to Orovada, Nev. Mrs. Province returned Oct. 13 by bus to Caldwell where she was met by Mrs. Whipple and the girls.

Mrs. Orma Cleaver visited Sunday in the Delbert Cleaver home. Mr. and Mrs. Alva Goodell attended the recent Knife and Fork club dinner-meeting at East Side cafe in Ontario.

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