



Pesticides and Slug Pellets

Slug pellets, as well as many other garden and agricultural pesticides, are not very good for any of our garden wildlife, regardless of what species they specifically target. If hedgehogs eat poisoned slugs or insects, or they eat the pellets themselves, then they will come to great harm. If a pesticide kills, then it will enter the food chain and we have no control over where it ends up.

Slug pellets and pesticides are toxic chemicals intended to kill slugs and other invertebrates. Constant use of pesticides removes these invertebrates from the areas to which they are applied, meaning that hedgehogs and other animals that depend on them for their primary food source will not have sufficient food available. What's more, they can also pose a threat to larger animals—like hedgehogs—that eat poisoned slugs and insects or else ingest the pellets directly. Even products that claim to be hedgehog-friendly may still be cause for concern.

(Amazing Grace)



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Safer Alternatives:

- Hedgehogs will help keep your pest population under control! Just provide them with a shallow bowl of water and a supplemental meat-based food supply to encourage them to visit.
- Birds are another predator of slugs and can be attracted to your garden with bird seed and water.
- Beer traps (beer-filled containers sunk into the ground) and grapefruit peels are good pesticide deterrents.
- Companion planting can be used and keeps a good balance of vegetables for everyone to eat. Why not try targeting your busy bugs with plants that deter them.
- Use plants less attractive to bugs until you have a natural balance back in your space. *(Amazing Grace)*



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