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# Alternative ways of controlling those slimy beasts

- Slugs are attracted to **beer** and so if you make pitfall traps, i.e. a small open container such as a jam jar or plastic cup, half filled with beer then the slugs will seek out the beer, fall in and drown. This can however attract and kill other, more beneficial ground dwelling invertebrates.
- **Seaweed** is a slug deterrent due to its salt content. Use plenty of dried seaweed around the base of your plants, being careful for it not to touch the plant stems. The sharp texture will also make it difficult for slugs to move over.
- Use broken **egg shells, coffee grounds or nutshells** (often available from coffee shops for free) on the top of your soil around the base of your plant as slugs struggle to cross the sharp, dry surface. They also don't like **sand!**
- If you scatter squeezed halves of **oranges** or **grapefruits** around your garden, these will attract the slugs and so collecting them just after dark is much quicker.
- **Copper** barrier tape around the base or middle of plant pots will prevent slugs from crossing it to reach your plants as it gives them a slight electrical shock on contact.
- Slugs thrive in damp conditions so change your **watering schedule** from the evening to the morning, that way the top layer of the soil will be dry when the slugs are most active therefore reducing their efficiency.
- Dig a **wildlife pond** to encourage amphibians into your garden. These will add to the ranks of slug and snail consuming creatures in your garden.
- Plant **garlic** next to your most vulnerable crop as this is a repellent. If you don't have the space, or the inclination, then make a garlic spray (you will need to apply to plants regularly, especially after rain):

Boil 2 bulbs of garlic crushed in 2 pints water for 5 mins

Strain mixture and add more water to make back up to 2 pints

Let mixture cool before pouring into a bottle

Use 1 tablespoon of garlic mix to 1 gallon of water as needed.

- Other plants thought to repel slugs are **rosemary, fennel** and **rue**.