



Agricultural Pathology &
Biological Farming Service
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SLUG SOLUTIONS

(Ref. Acres USA Magazine, Bryan O'Hara)

Adapted for Australian conditions by Dr Mary Cole.

In a no-till farming system, slugs can pose a challenge, particularly for spring plantings. The high residue and wet conditions may encourage slugs, so irrigation is carefully applied so as not to keep the soil/mulch wet for extended periods. Application of additional mulch may be lessened or put on hold during this period. Techniques that keep the area drier, such as raised beds, proper drainage (tiles, ditches), and eliminating slugs by solarising larger areas, are useful.

The lush growth from excess nitrogen fertilisation especially needs to be avoided. Growing sturdy, hardy plants through proper fertilisation is of greatest benefit. Foliar application of leaf “hardening” materials such as vinegar, at rates of about 1:300 of water, would be an example.

SLUG REPELLENT RECIPE

For problem areas, a slug repellent dust is applied to the surface at seeding. This is a mixture of approximately 40 percent talc (magnesium silicate), 40 percent diatomaceous earth (calcium silicate) and 20 percent hydrated lime (feed grade). These materials are drying to slugs and also enhance crop growth. The slug dust may have to be reapplied after rainy conditions.