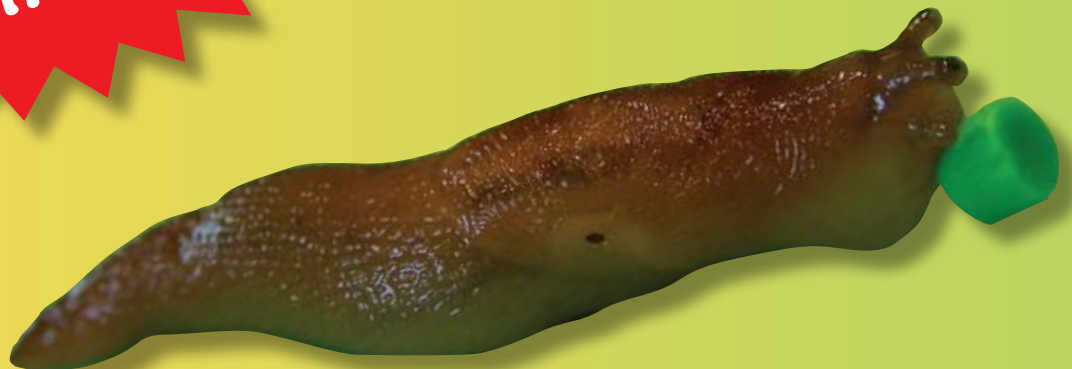




# METAREX<sup>®</sup>

ALL WEATHER SLUG AND SNAIL BAIT

**STOP PRESS!**  
New Pasture  
Registration\*



\*Metarex<sup>®</sup> is the only metaldehyde-based bait registered specifically in pasture sowing situations.

# Snails

Snail problems are increasing in many areas as agricultural practices move to enhance soil conservation. Less tillage combined with the retention of pasture and crop residues (stubble) enables greater snail survival within agricultural systems.

Snails can be significant pests of crops and pastures, and there are four main species that cause a variety of problems across southern Australia. These snails are native to the Mediterranean region of Europe and have now become established within Australia.

Snails can reduce crop yield by feeding directly on seedlings, buds, leaves and fruit. They can also be responsible for financial loss due to contamination of produce such as export citrus, table and wine grapes, fresh fruit and vegetables.



# Slugs

Slugs can be a serious pest of many crops, particularly during the critical establishment phase. They can kill seeds by eating the plant tissue essential for germination, even if the whole seed is not consumed. Similarly, slugs can also eat out the growing points of young seedlings leading to plant death.

The damage that slugs cause is often underestimated as they are mostly active at night and damage symptoms can be consistent with other pest damage, or blamed on poor germination when the damage occurs underground and out of sight. Signs of slug damage can include poor emergence, plants eaten down to ground level or irregular areas eaten from leaves.

Slugs prefer soils with some clay content and do not survive as well in fine, light or compacted soils. They are becoming more of a problem as minimum tillage and soil conservation measures like stubble retention and increased soil organic matter provide ideal conditions for their survival.

All pest slugs in Australia have been introduced from overseas, with the two main species being *Deroceras reticulatum* and *Milax gagates*.

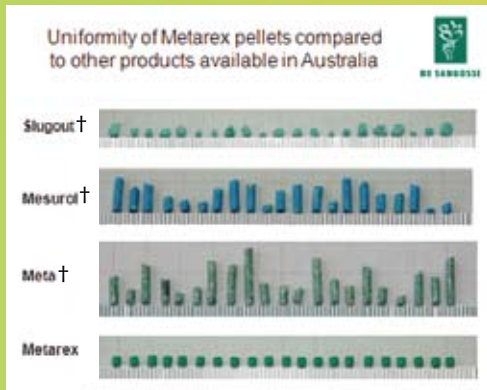
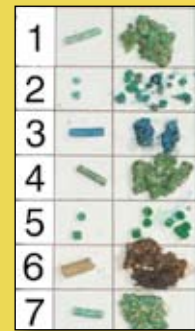


# METAREX – The powerful solution

## More attractive and effective even in wet conditions

METAREX® was originally developed for European conditions, and performs long after inferior baits have collapsed. This reduces the need to re-apply baits following rainfall or irrigation, hence cutting the cost of application and providing more cost-effective control.

**RIGHT:** Metarex (row 5) showing superior weather resistance to ordinary baits when subject to 75mm of simulated rainfall.



## High number of even-sized bait points

Metarex has more flexibility in application methods than other baits. The consistent pellet size means that baits flow smoothly and spread evenly for optimum coverage. This feature enables Metarex to be mixed with seed and sown “down the tubes” for control of slugs. The unique formulation is resistant to shattering which means that more baits reach the ground when applied using spinner-type spreaders.

With approximately 60,000 baits per kg, Metarex has the most consistent size and highest number of bait points of any slug and snail bait registered in crops and pasture.

**LEFT:** Metarex outperforms competitors with its nominal 2.5mm x 2.7mm pellet.

## High Palatability

Metarex is made with only premium quality high protein ingredients to attract slugs and snails away from the crop and deliver a lethal dose quickly.

## Superior Efficacy

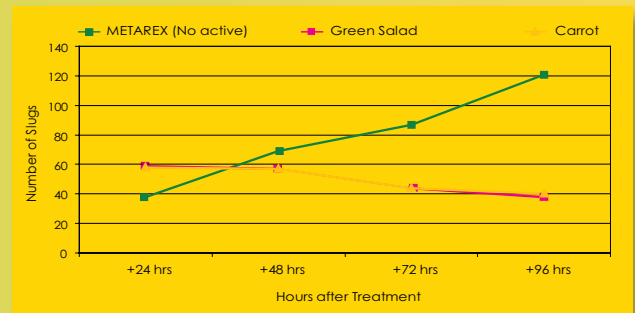
Metarex is a unique combination of a highly attractive bait system with a proven active ingredient to consistently outperform ordinary slug and snail baits, no matter what the weather.

Metarex contains 50g/kg of Metaldehyde.

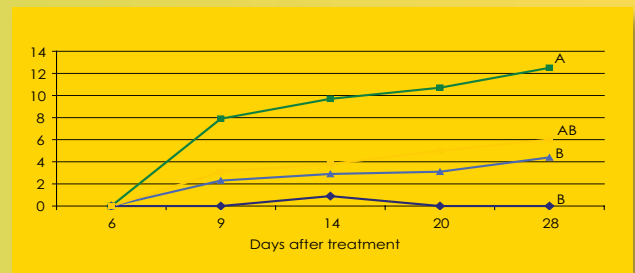
## Safety

Metarex contains Bitrex®, a proven taste deterrent, to help reduce the likelihood of consumption by non-target mammals.

Metaldehyde is softer than methiocarb on beneficial soil organisms such as carabid beetles and earthworms..



Relative palatability compared to carrot and green salad.



Mortality on Brown Garden Snail grapevines cv. Dawn Seedless - Dead Snails Per Vine. Source Trial S2003123

## Key Benefits

- FAST and EFFECTIVE** protection for optimum crop yield and produce quality.
- EASY** to spread or drill to save time and money.
- NO DUST** for a high level of operator safety and greater number of baits getting to the ground.
- COST EFFECTIVE** with a low use rate to be effective for longer in wet conditions.

**THE ONLY METALDEHYDE-BASED BAIT REGISTERED SPECIFICALLY IN PASTURE\***

\*See the Metarex label for directions for use in pasture

† Slugout, Mesurci and Meta are all registered trademarks.

# Timing and application tips

## Broadacre crops, eg. canola, cereals, poppies and legumes

### Slugs

Mixing Metarex with seed or applying in-furrow during sowing places the bait in close proximity to the seed. In direct drill situations slugs often travel along the sowing slot feeding on every seed or seedling.

Under high slug pressure, a combination of Metarex with the seed plus broadcast application over the surface is highly effective.

Crops should be monitored, particularly in the first six weeks after sowing and Metarex reapplied if slug numbers or crop damage justify.

### Snails

Apply baits to the surface prior to or immediately after sowing. This can be done using a number of methods including:

- A spreader powered via the tractor or a 12 volt system
- A small seed box mounted on an air seeder using scatter plates or tubes at the rear row of tyres.
- Aircraft, where large areas need to be covered in a timely and cost effective manner, especially in wet conditions.

### Tips

1. If pressure is high, apply bait prior to sowing;
2. Time baiting prior to egg laying (generally starting 2-4 weeks after first heavy autumn rains and continuing through winter). Ideally apply baits when moist conditions are forecast;
3. Monitor snail activity and re-apply if required;
4. Bait the perimeter to combat new infestations;
5. Plan pre and post harvest strategies to clean grain.

## Direct Drilled Pasture

### Slugs only

Mix Metarex with seed evenly and apply through the sowing equipment or separately into the seed furrow. Grazing of newly sown pastures must be delayed at least 8 weeks after sowing.

### Grapevines

Timing is critical to manage snail populations in grapevines. Apply Metarex initially in autumn immediately after the autumn break rains and before snails move down onto the vineyard floor to feed and mate. To reduce population growth baits should be available through the autumn and winter. As temperatures increase in late spring snails move to higher ground, normally into vines and trellis posts, to aestivate. Baiting can be ineffective in spring and summer as snails often stay in the canopy and do not forage on the ground.

Baiting can be more effective if alternate food sources such as cover crops are removed from between the rows.

Application methods include spreaders mounted on tractors or quad bikes, while aircraft can provide rapid, even and cost-effective coverage of large areas.

### Tips:

1. Control weeds and plant litter to reduce alternate food sources and refuge;
2. Bait in autumn after rain and prior to egg laying to significantly reduce numbers. Treat all parts of the vineyard and perimeter;
3. Monitor activity in the spring and if snails are still active on the vineyard floor late season, baiting may be effective.

## Vegetables & Nurseries

Slugs and snails are active year round whenever temperature and moisture conditions are favourable. This varies by species however, and generally damp, mild, calm conditions favour activity. Application by mechanical or hand operated spreaders is ideal. It is essential to ensure that pellets are not trapped in the crop canopy to avoid their inclusion in the harvested crop.

## Tree crops including citrus, pome fruit and avocados

Apply Metarex initially in autumn immediately after the autumn break rains and before snails move down onto the orchard floor to feed and mate. To reduce population growth, baits should be available through the autumn and winter or as specified in industry export protocols. As temperatures increase in late spring, snails move to higher ground (normally into trees) to aestivate. Baiting can be ineffective in spring and summer as snails often stay in the canopy and do not forage on the ground.

Baiting can be more effective if alternate food sources such as cover crops are removed from between the tree rows.

Application can be by spreaders mounted on tractors or quad bikes.

## In a nutshell...

- Time bait application prior to breeding and egg laying to reduce population pressure. This is best after the first major autumn rains for most snail species.
- Ideally apply Metarex when moist conditions are forecast and pests are most active.
- Monitor slug numbers by placing a wet sack or tile on the ground overnight.
- Monitor snail activity and re-apply baits when economic thresholds are reached.

## Rates

Metarex is registered generally for use in the rate range 5 to 8 kg/ha. Where small brown snails (*Microxeromagna vestita*) are present 10kg/ha. should be used.

READ THE PRODUCT LABEL THOROUGHLY BEFORE OPENING OR USING METAREX.

# METAREX®

ALL WEATHER SLUG AND SNAIL BAIT

For more information contact your local retailer or visit [agnova.com.au](http://agnova.com.au)

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