Reduce the Risk of Rat Lungworm

CONTROL SLUGS AND SNAILS

1. Remove Hiding Places
   - Boards, stones, and rubbish
   - Weeds around tree trunks, fallen fruit
   - Leafy branches close to the ground

2. Handpick- but DON’T TOUCH with Bare Hands
   - Rainfall & watering a garden in late afternoon encourages slugs & snails to come out
   - Pick them in the evening and/or early morning
   - Wear rubber gloves and use tongs or chopsticks
   - Make a Slug Jug. Drop them in to kill them. Add a little bleach to keep it from smelling bad.
   - Leave them in at least 12 hours. Dispose of the dead slugs and solution away from plants, like in a driveway (salt kills plants).
   - Do it daily at first, weekly when numbers become lower.
   - Don’t smash slugs or snails - rat lungworms won’t die.

3. Make Traps
   Clear grass and weeds to bare dirt and moisten ground before setting out traps. Use plastic bags, boards held slightly above the ground by a stick, old plates, flower pots, melon rinds and peels. Check them daily, put any caught in the slug jug

4. Use Baits
   - BAITS ALONE MAY NOT BE EFFECTIVE
   - When dry, water before applying bait
   - Metaldehyde baits - toxic to pets and children, work well but rain can reduce effectiveness
   - Iron phosphate baits - safe for humans and animals, takes a few days to kill slugs and snails.

HOW TO MAKE A SLUG JUG
Get a sturdy plastic container with a handle and wide mouth that holds at least a gallon. Fill with 7 cups water and 1 cup salt. Shake to dissolve.

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Photos: Rob Hollingsworth, USDA/ARS Hilo, HI