# Gardening experts urge a rethink on slug pellet usage



As spring and summer approach, experts are advising gardeners across the UK to reconsider their approach to managing slugs in their gardens, particularly urging a move away from using slug pellets. Gardener’s reliance on these products, often seen as a solution to protect plants, may inadvertently be causing more harm than benefit to local wildlife.

Slugs pose a significant threat to gardens, emerging after rainfall and at night to consume flowers, crops, and other plants. Given this persistent issue, many gardeners have turned to various methods—slug pellets being a common choice—to safeguard their greenery. However, ecological specialists from Arbtech are highlighting the potential dangers of these pellets, claiming that they can harm a range of garden wildlife beyond just slugs and snails.

According to Arbtech, "though used by many gardeners to protect plants from slug damage, the pellets may actually cause more problems than they solve in your garden." The main active ingredient in many slug repellents poses toxicity risks to other creatures, such as hedgehogs and birds, and even organic alternatives contain harmful substances. Furthermore, there are potential risks for pets as ingestion of large quantities can lead to toxicity.

The experts are suggesting that gardeners pivot towards more natural solutions for slug management. They recommend alternatives such as crushed eggshells and coffee grounds, which can be spread around plants to create barriers against slugs. Additionally, incorporating 'slug-proof plants' into gardens is another recommended strategy. Arbtech advises selecting native species that can withstand slug activity or opting for plants that have natural deterrents, such as spiky leaves or strong aromas.

Furthermore, it is important for gardeners to be aware of regulatory changes regarding slug pellets. Pellets containing metaldehyde have been banned in the UK for some time, and not only is their usage prohibited, but storage of such products is also against the law. Gardeners are therefore encouraged to clear out any non-compliant items from their sheds to comply with these regulations.

The Birmingham Mail is reporting on these developments as gardeners prepare for the new growing season, highlighting the growing emphasis on wildlife-friendly practices in gardening.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.envii.co.uk/garden-blog-post/why-slug-pellets-are-dangerous-for-children-pets-and-wild-life/> - This article explains the dangers of slug pellets to pets, wildlife, and children, highlighting the toxicity of metaldehyde and methiocarb. It also discusses safer alternatives like crushed eggshells and coffee grounds.
* <https://community.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/f/wildlife-protection/25591/toads-and-slug-pellets> - This forum discusses the risks of using slug pellets around wildlife like frogs and toads. It suggests using organic and safer alternatives to protect both plants and wildlife.
* <https://www.greenecofriend.co.uk/wildlife-friendly-alternatives-to-slug-pellets/> - This page provides various wildlife-friendly alternatives to slug pellets, including methods to deter slugs without killing them, such as damp cardboard and encouraging predators.
* <https://www.envii.co.uk/garden-blog-post/why-slug-pellets-are-dangerous-for-children-pets-and-wild-life/> - Corroborates the toxicity of metaldehyde and the risks it poses to wildlife and pets, highlighting its ban in the UK.
* <https://www.greenecofriend.co.uk/wildlife-friendly-alternatives-to-slug-pellets/> - Supports the idea of planting slug-friendly plants to divert them from other plants and reduce the reliance on slug pellets.