

TECHNOTE GETTING THE BEST OUT OF META

Meta is a premium grain based pellet containing 1.5 % metaldehyde which is registered for control of slugs and snails in fruit and vegetable crops, winter cereals, oilseeds and pasture. It is supplied in 25 kg and 500 kg packs.

GETTING THE BEST OUT OF META

Poor performance of metaldehyde containing products in the past has been due to:

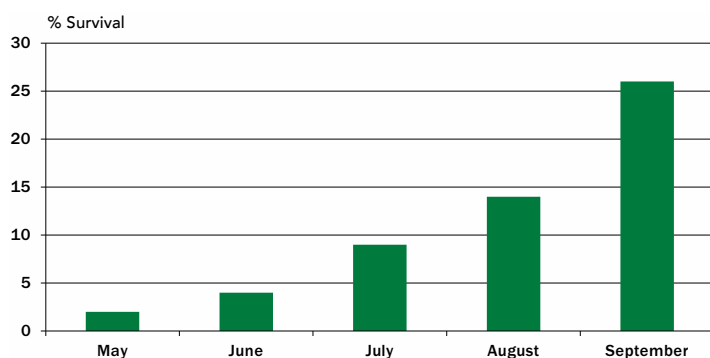
- Inappropriate application timing
- A formulation with poor rainfastness and sustainability
- Lack of efficacy in cool conditions
- The pellet density being too low

TIMING OF SNAIL CONTROL MATTERS

Trial results from GRDC shown in Figure 1 demonstrate that if Meta is applied in May, less than 5 % of the population survives, whereas baiting in September results in over 25 % survival. Best control is therefore achieved baiting for snails and slugs in early autumn. Application again in spring can control any newly hatched eggs which were laid since the autumn application.

Figure 1: Timing of snail control

Source: ARMS - GRDC Report



QUALITY INCLUDING RAINFASTNESS IS IMPORTANT

Figures 2 to 4 show that Meta performs very well under moist conditions and in lower temperatures due to the fact that the formulation uses metaldehyde as the active ingredient, premium raw materials, and is manufactured to high quality standards.

Figure 2: Efficacy of metaldehyde under moist conditions

Source: ACTA France

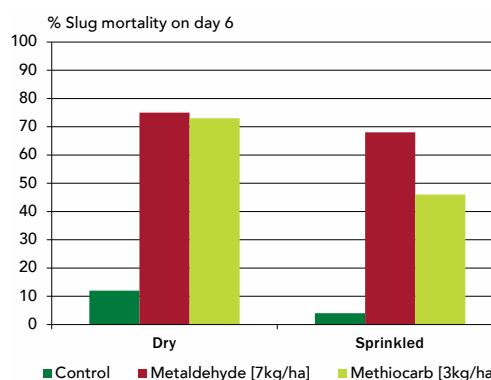


Figure 3: Effect of metaldehyde at low temperatures

Source: Mallet & Bougaran 1971

Number of dead slugs in a field trial

Frosts between 2nd and 12th day

DAYS AFTER TREATMENT	METALDEHYDE 5%	METHIOCARB 4%
1	65	30
3	34	36
7	58	40
14	11	44
Overall	168	151

Figure 4: Rainfast comparison: 60 mm rainfall, 2 days



APPLICATION RATE

The application rate is very important including number of bait stations per square metre. Meta provides more bait stations per square meter than many of the other grain based pellets. This ensures more opportunities for snails to come in to contact with the baits and receive a lethal dose.

Figure 5: Bait stations per square metre

PRODUCT	BAIT POINTS/M ²
Meta	11
Slugger [®]	8
Pestmaster [®] Snail and Slug Bait	4
David Grays Snail Pellets	9
Mesuro [®]	10

NOT ALL GRAIN BASED PELLETS HAVE THE SAME REGISTRATIONS

Nufarm has conducted additional research and development over several years to ensure that growers can use Meta to their best advantage. Residue trials were conducted to obtain the necessary data to achieve a nil harvest WHP in pulses, oilseeds and winter cereals. In addition, pasture, pulse, oilseed and winter cereal growers can graze their crops provided that they adhere to the WHP of 5 weeks. No other grain based pellet have these claims on the label. A comparison is provided in Figure 6.

META WITHHOLDING PERIOD

Harvest:

Fruit and vegetables: Do not apply later than 7 days before harvest.
Pulses, oilseeds, winter cereals: Not required when used as directed.

Grazing:

Pastures, pulses, oilseeds, winter cereals: Do not graze or cut for stock food for 5 weeks after application.



Vineyard or common white snail



Conical or pointed snail



White Italian snail



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For more information on Meta, contact your local Nufarm Territory Manager.

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Figure 6: WHP product comparison

PRODUCT	WHP (HARVEST)	WHP (GRAZING)
Meta	Fruit and vegetables: Do not apply later than 7 days before harvest. Pulses, oilseeds, winter cereals: Not required when used as directed.	Pastures, pulses, oilseeds, winter cereals: Do not graze or cut for stock food for 5 weeks after application.
Slugger	Fruit and vegetables: Do not apply later than 7 days before harvest.	DO NOT allow stock to graze treated areas.
Pestmaster Snail and Slug Bait	Do not harvest edible plants for 7 days after application.	Nothing on label so cannot graze.
Blitzem [®]	Fruit and vegetables: Do not harvest edible plants for 7 days after application.	Nothing on label so cannot graze.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

SITUATION	PEST	RATE	CRITICAL COMMENTS
Around plants	Snails and slugs	50 g/m ²	Scatter the pellets around seedlings and plants to be protected and in areas where snails and slugs congregate. Spread pellets evenly. Dogs and other animals find this bait attractive and it may kill them. If pets or livestock are poisoned contact a veterinary surgeon.
Winter cereals Oilseeds	Common white snail (<i>Ceruella virgata</i>) White Italian snail (<i>Theba pisana</i>) Conical snail (<i>Cochlicella acuta</i>) Grey field slug (<i>Deroceras reticulatum</i>)	5 – 7.5 kg/ha	Broadcast pellets evenly over the crop or pasture area to be protected from snails and slugs. Pay particular attention to areas adjacent to headlands, fence lines and other areas where snails and slugs shelter and move into crops and pastures. Use the higher rate where there are large populations of snails or slugs and where wet cool climatic conditions are favourable for snail and slug movement.
Pulses* Pasture establishment*			* Pulse and Pasture crops only: META is to be used only during the establishment stages of pulse crops and pastures. Broadcast pellets evenly over the crop area to be protected either prior to planting, post-plant pre-emergence or early post-emergence (prior to 4 leaf stage).