



School Gardening
Resources

PRIMARY LEVEL

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

Managing Common Garden Foes





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| Time of Year | April to June |
| Aim | To explore which natural deterrents work best on slugs and snails. |
| Resources Needed | Pictures of slugs and snails. A variety of deterrents, such as grit, chopped up seaweed, pine needles and horsehair, sheep's wool, wood ash, crushed razor shells, baked, crushed eggshells, coffee grinds. Peat free compost. 5-10 lettuce plants. 5-10 15-25cm diameter pots. |
| Cross Curriculum Relevance | SESE: Living things, environmental awareness and care, observing, recording, insect identification, food chains Languages: New words, literacy, spelling Art: Drawing/photograph/creativity SPHE: Myself & the wider world, active and responsible citizenship Informal Curriculum: Green Schools, Discover Primary Science |



Preparation

1. Make a low raised bed 1 square metre in area using planks 10 to 15cm wide. Fill this with peat free compost.
2. Cut the rims off 5-10 plant pots using a hacksaw. Diameters of pots can vary from 15cm to 25cm.



Planting

Plant similar sized lettuce plants in the centre of each rim. Water well. Surround inside of each rim one of the deterrents listed above, ensuring you leave one with no deterrent, which will be the control.



Observation

Each day the pupils observe the plants at a fixed time noting the condition of each lettuce and recording what they see. This can be done by drawing, photography or writing. Continue with the investigation until no more damage is being done to the plants by molluscs.

Health and Safety

- ★ Care should be exercised cutting the rims off with the hacksaw.
- ★ Use goggles when crushing the razor shells.
- ★ Do not bake the eggshells longer than a minute.



Extension Activity

Ask the pupils to devise another test using different deterrents.

