

## Gardening Tips

### Snail And Slug Control

**By John Ferguson**

Last week we had a customer asking about snail and slug control. Due to the drought the last couple years they have not been a major problem for most gardeners.

The most effective (and lowest cost) slug and snail control I have ever used is baby ducks. For many years I would go to Wabash Antiques and Feed in Washington and buy a couple baby ducks and keep them in my backyard. They love to eat slugs and snails and will almost fight over whom gets to eat them.

They will stick their beaks into every nook and crevice looking for them. The ducks then leave a nutrient rich duck poop behind to fertilize the plants. When they were old enough they would just fly off over the fence and be gone.

However, they knocked back the slug and snail populations so much that they were no longer a problem often giving me two years of control! As a side benefit they also eat lots of other pest insects, mulberries that dropped from my tree, etc. turning them all into rich poop.

God knew what he was doing by providing a natural pest control that enriches the soil in the process. A modern gardener studies nature and copies how pest control is done. It works better, costs less, and no toxic side effects. In other words what has become known as "Organic Methods".