

# Stop slugs and snails dead in their trails!



## MethioSHIELD™ SNAIL & SLUG BAIT

### Snail Control in Broadacre Crops

#### Introduction.

Snails are becoming an increasing problem in crops and pastures in many parts of Australia as changing cultural practices favour their survival. The reduction in stubble burning together with minimum cultivation techniques, aimed at increasing organic matter in the soil and reducing soil erosion, have tended to aggravate the snail problem, allowing a massive build-up in numbers over the past several years.

In cereals and legume crops, large numbers of snails can cause serious problems during harvest by clogging the header comb, blocking the drum and causing header bearings to seize.

Besides causing costly delays to clean clogged machinery, the contamination, staining and excess moisture can also lead to dockages, and in severe cases, total rejection on the grain at the silo.

Snails spend the summer months clustered at the top of fence posts and on vegetation such as cereals, field peas and perennial weeds.

Field observations have clearly indicated the magnitude of the snail problem with an average fence post carrying up to 600 snails over

summer. Likewise, perennial weeds like onion weed, bull rushes and millet can also harbour thousands of over-summering snails.

#### The Pest.

There are three different snails which pose a problem in crops and pastures.

The white snail, *Ceruella virgata*, is widespread in South Australia and eats dead plant tissue. It clusters on grain heads during summer.

The white Italian snail, *Theba pisana*, eats living tissue and is a problem in Lucerne, improved pastures and sometimes, broadacre crops. It also climbs up plants to over-summer.

The conical snail, *Cochlicella acuta*, also eats living tissue. It is the same size as a cereal grain and therefore, is difficult to separate by screening.

Export markets have nil tolerance for snails in grain samples.

#### The Solution.

Integrated control and management techniques are essential to keep snail populations at an acceptable level in cereal and grain legume crops.



### PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

Active constituent:	Methiocarb 20 g/kg
Formulation type:	Extruded bait pellet
Pack sizes:	- 10 kg carton (SUN910) - 150 kg steel drum (SUN927)
Chemical group:	Carbamate
Schedule:	CAUTION

**Pest Claims:** For the control of snails and slugs in gardens, pastures, orchards, nurseries, oilseed crops, vegetables, cereals, citrus, grapes and other various situations as specified on the label including false wireworm beetle on sunflowers.

#### Key Features:

- Highly attractive bait matrix
- Long lasting
- Fast acting
- All weather protection
- Mould resistant
- Contains bitrex bittering agent to deter non target consumption
- MADE IN AUSTRALIA

As snails can only survive the summer if they can climb 5-10 cm above the ground, practices such as slashing, rolling and grazing of stubble and pasture greatly reduces the number of over-summering sites available to snails. Burning of heavily infested paddocks is another effective method of control.

However, the largest populations of snails survive along fence lines and on weeds growing along roadside verges. Therefore, the establishment of fence line fire-breaks, and the slashing and burning of roadside verges can not only help to protect paddocks from fires, but also reduce over-summering sites for snails.

Baiting also has a major role to play in effective snail control in crops and pastures and two methods are recommended - fence line baiting and paddock baiting.

#### **Fence line baiting with MethioSHIELD Bait.**

For maximum success, the timing of fence line baiting is critical.

Snail populations must be monitored to determine when they move down off their over-summering sites such as fence posts. This will usually occur after the autumn break.

To prevent snails from moving into newly sown crops, a protective barrier of MethioSHIELD Bait should be applied at the rate of 5.5 kg/ha along boundary fences and around newly sown crops. If snail infestations are particularly heavy, application rates of 11-22 kg/ha of MethioSHIELD may be required.

The bait should be applied in a 1-4 metre band at the rate of 3 kg MethioSHIELD Bait/100 metre of fence line to the bare ground between the fence line and the edge of the crop to provide a protective barrier around the paddock. Regular monitoring should be undertaken as follow up applications may be necessary.

#### **Paddock Baiting with MethioSHIELD Snail & Slug Bait.**

When snail infestation levels within the crop are high, an application of MethioSHIELD Snail & Slug Bait can be used at the rate of 5-10 kg/ha.

All baiting should be carried out when snails are active such as when moisture levels are high.

#### *MethioSHIELD Bait*

- Is highly effective - up to 30 snails can be killed by a single pellet.
- Provides a quick kill - MethioSHIELD is fast acting.
- Gives positive control - snails do not recover.
- It is easy to apply - e.g. through fertiliser spreader.
- Is long lasting - MethioSHIELD Bait remains effective even under adverse weather conditions.
- Is economical

***Don't let snails down grade your grain. Treat early and protect your crop.***

## **Sundew Solutions - MethioSHIELD Snail and Slug Bait**

Sundew MethioSHIELD Snail and Slug bait is a robust, fast-acting, knock-down snail and slug pellet bait with a broad spectrum of application areas. The blue bait is attractive to slugs and snails and has fast action with no recoveries. A single pellet of MethioSHIELD can kill up to 30 snails.

