



PestFacts WA

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Now is the time to patch bait snails

- Manypeaks
- Gibson

Baiting is the recommended method for snail management. Timing of baiting is important and should coincide with active snail movement and feeding.

Snail movement is being monitored by the Stirlings to Coast Farmers (SCF) and South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA). There are 2 cameras in the Albany port zone and one in the Esperance port zone. The snail movement project is being undertaken as part of the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) co-investment project 'More effective control of pest snails in Australian Grain Crops (UOA2205-005RTX)' led by the South Australian Research and Development Institute

(SARDI), in partnership with SCF, SEPWA and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

With recent rainfall and dewy nights, snails have been observed actively moving beneath the cameras at Manypeaks and Gibson. Snails can become active after a rain event of 5 mm or more. Snails can also be actively moving, even if there has not been rainfall during the day, as long as humidity is above 75%.

For more information see DPIRD's [Time snail baiting to coincide with maximum snail movement and before snails lay eggs](#) page.

Before baiting entire paddocks, it is useful to patch bait to make sure snails are actively feeding. To do this, hand broadcast baits in a small area and check for dead snails the next day.

Three steps for successful management of broadacre snails

1. Identify

There are 3 snail species that are pests of WA broadacre crops. For more information on how to diagnose snails refer to DPIRD's [Diagnosing snails in crops](#). It is important to know what snail species are in the paddock so the best methods of management can be applied at the right time.

2. Monitor

Snail numbers should be monitored to determine if they exceed DPIRD's [suggested threshold numbers](#) and if there is a need to carry out management methods.

Snails are usually found on stumps, fence lines and under stubble, depending on the species of snail. Camera monitoring of snail movement has shown that the best time to check for snails in your paddock is early in the morning, from 6 am to 8 am, when there is moisture on plants and stubble.

A good way to determine snail numbers on open ground is to use a 32x32 cm square quadrant and count all of the live snails in it. This size quadrant is an area of 10% of a square metre so multiplying by 10 will give an estimate of snails per square metre.

3. Manage

Trials conducted by Stirlings to Coast farmers has shown that techniques such as cabling, speed tilling and stubble crunching that control round snails (white Italian, vineyard snail) are not effective on small conical snails. For more information refer to the Stirlings to Coast Farmers [Trials Review Booklet 2020](#).

After sowing, baiting is the only control method for snails. Baiting before the crop emerges is more effective than after emergence as snails randomly encounter baits and are less likely to encounter plants to feed on. The less green plant material present in the paddock the more likely it is that snails will encounter a bait.

Baiting snails before eggs are laid will kill snails for the current season, in addition to decreasing the following years population.

It is hard to determine when egg lay will occur without dissecting snails to determine their level of sexual maturity. Dissections of small conical snails are being undertaken between February and May for a project led by the Stirlings to Coast Farmers (SCF) grower group, in collaboration with SEPWA and DPIRD. The initiative is funded by GRDC as part of its Snails Surveillance for the South Coast baiting program.

Dissection results can be viewed at the SCF's [South Coast Snails Monitoring portal](#). To date, snails in the monitored paddocks are all immature. It is expected that they will become sexually mature in the coming weeks. The team will be undertaking further dissections to confirm maturity during this time. Consultants and growers are advised to

regularly check this website to see when snails are sexually mature in their area and bait before egg lay. If baiting occurs after egg laying, then plan to manage the next generation of snails.

An even spread of baits across paddocks also increases the chance that snails will feed on them, reducing the need for re-baiting. It is also recommended that growers' budget for more than one bait application, a single application of baits may not be sufficient to control small conical snails. For more baiting information refer to the Stirlings to Coast Farmers [Effective baiting options for the control of conical snails in the Albany port zone](#) final technical report.

Research has also found that applying granular lime to a paddock with small conical snails increases shell strength and increase their fertility. Growers need to budget for baiting paddocks after liming has occurred. For more information see the GRDC Update Paper [Determining the effect of lime on small pointed \(conical\) snail fecundity and shell strength](#).

A biocontrol program has commenced on the South Coast, where Australian-bred parasitoid flies (*Sarcophaga villeneuveana*) have been released to help control snail pests and protect crop yields, quality and growers' profitability. For more information refer to DPIRD's [Fly biocontrol released to control farm snail pests](#) media release. The fly re-release was augmented in February of this year at one site in the Albany and Esperance port zones.

Further information

For more information on slug and snail control visit:

- DPIRD's [Identification and control of pest slugs and snails for broadacre crops in WA](#) page
- DPIRD's [Snail and slug control](#) page
- DPIRD's [Managing snails in WA webinar](#) recording
- DPIRD's [Managing snails in broadacre crops](#) podcast
- GRDC's [Nail the Snails](#) publication
- GRDC's [Snail baiting as part of an integrated pest management strategy](#) video.

For more information, contact Research Scientist [Svetlana Micic](#), Albany on +61 (0)8 9892 8591.

Article authors: Cindy Webster (DPIRD Narrogin) and Svetlana Micic (DPIRD Albany).

Which app should I use to identify and report insect pests and diseases?

You can submit your report or request an identification using either DPIRD's PestFacts WA Reporter app or the MyPestGuide® Reporter app.

Here's how to choose the right one to suit your needs:

PestFacts WA Reporter app is a tool for WA grain growers, agronomists and field researchers to report and request identifications of pests, beneficial insects and plant diseases, or other damage in broadacre crops and pastures throughout the season.

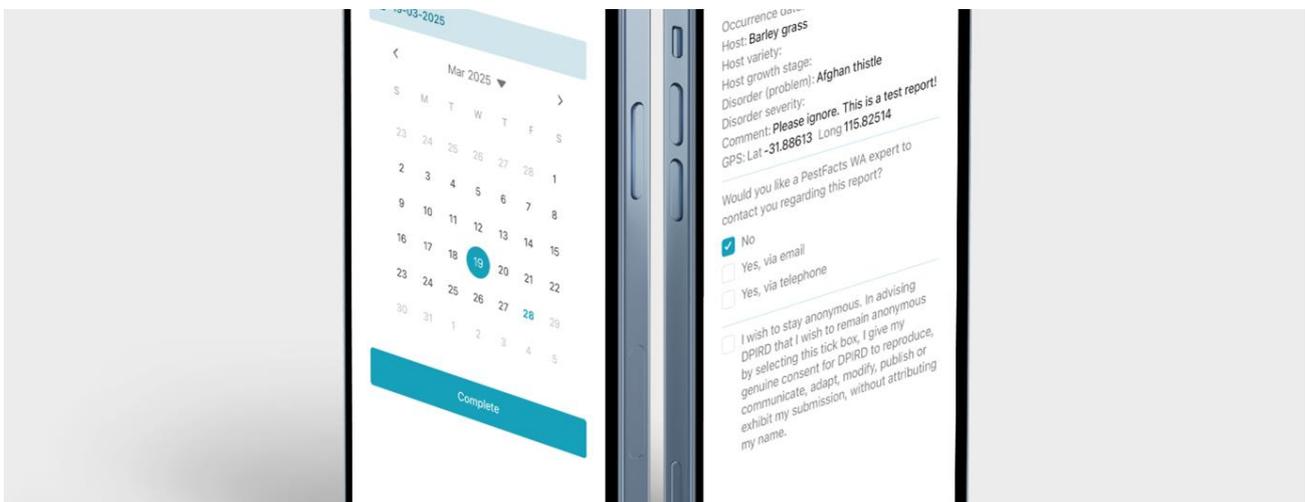


Image 2: Mobiles phones displaying PestFacts WA Reporter app input selections. Photo courtesy of DPIRD.

MyPestGuide® Reporter app is a free photo reporting app built for everyone to report insect pests, diseases or weeds from any location across Australia to DPIRD experts.



Image 3: Amber Balfour-Cunningham (UWA/DPIRD) making a report via a mobile app. Photo courtesy of Jordan Turnock (public).

Report grains pests and diseases from the paddock

In the PestFacts WA reporting app, report directly from the paddock by entering:

- Host plant (grain crop or pasture)
- Date and location
- Pest or disease information

If requesting an identification attach up to 3 clear photos of the pest, crop damage, or disease signs/symptoms. Add more information or questions in the comments section and provide contact details to request a reply by a PestFacts WA team member with diagnosis or management advice. If out of mobile or wi-fi range, the app will send your report when reconnected.

Receive timely grains pest and disease alerts

Subscribe to the [PestFacts WA e-newsletter](#) to receive updates straight to your inbox.

In addition to surveillance conducted by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), your reports in the PestFactsWA reporter app contribute to the interactive PestFacts WA service, tracking crop and pasture threats across WA's grainbelt during the growing season. Stay informed with:

- Up to date diagnostic information
- Warnings of pest and plant disease outbreaks
- Management advice.

Your reports help build the [PestFacts WA map](#), a visual display of pest, beneficial insects and disease data. Data has been collected from reports since 1996. Learn more about this interactive tool in the 2024 PestFacts WA Issue 20 article [Do you use the PestFacts WA map?](#)

PestFacts WA is supported by the 'Seasonal status of pests and diseases delivered to growers' project, with co-investment from Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and DPIRD.

Help detect Australia's pest threats

Make your report directly to the MyPestGuide® Reporter app from your location and include:

- Up to 4 clear photos to assist with diagnosis
- Details of the location, plant type and how long the issue has been present.

MyPestGuide Reporter is a quick and easy way to connect with the department's specialists. You can also submit reports online via the MyPestGuide® [community page](#) where you can view public reports and learn more about the pests in your area.

The information gathered by MyPestGuide® users strengthen and support Australia's access to existing or new overseas trade markets by assisting the department in maintaining Australia's pest-free status and inferring our freedom from exotic pests.

Contact information

The PestFacts WA and MyPestGuide® teams work closely together and will make sure that your reports are delivered to the relevant project and followed up as required.

For more information contact Research Scientist Cindy Webster in Narrogin on +61 8 9881 0201 or email the PestFacts WA team.

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Article input: Laura Fagan (DPIRD Perth) and Amber Balfour-Cunningham (DPIRD Northam).

PestFacts WA webinar recording can now be viewed online



On Tuesday 8 April 2025, DPIRD Research Scientists Ian Foster, Svetlana Micic and Andrea Hills delivered a webinar on the topics:

- WA’s latest climate outlook
- Invertebrate pests that growers need to watch out for at crop establishment
- Green bridge and disease risk.

The webinar recording is now available for viewing on the DPIRD [YouTube channel](#) and the presentation PowerPoint slides can be downloaded from the DPIRD [About PestFacts WA](#) webpage.

For more information on the webinar topics presented, contact Research Scientists [Ian Foster](#) in Perth on +61 8 9368 3954, [Svetlana Micic](#) in Albany on +61 8 9892 8591 or [Andrea Hills](#) in Esperance on +61 8 9083 1144.

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