

Yukon Alien Alert YISC-1
Grey Field Slug *Deroceras reticulatum*



Photo: Randy Lamb

Origin: Europe

Recently Seen: A Whitehorse garden

Mode of Transportation: Likely potted plant material

Current Level of Invasion: Low

Identification:

- 40-60 mm long slug
- Variable in colour – light to dark cream or grey coloured, with or without black spots
- Short ridge or “keel” on back of body,
- Produces white sticky mucus when disturbed
- Likes disturbed areas such as cultivated fields or roadsides

Similar Species in Yukon:

- One native slug: the meadow slug (*Deroceras laeve*)
 - smaller, darker coloured slugs that only secrete clear mucus

Reasons for Concern:

- Eat broadleaf plants, grasses and fruit crops
- Major North American agricultural pest in field and horticultural crops
- Once established, they are very difficult to eradicate

How to Prevent Slug Invasion:

- Inspect potted plants prior to introduction to gardens or flower beds
- Watch for mucus trails near damaged foliage

What to do if sighted:

- Don't panic
- Remove all slugs if possible, checking under rocks and leaf litter
- Take photos and send to Yukon Invasive Species Council info@yukoninvasives.com or the Yukon Agriculture Branch agriculture@gov.yk.ca for confirmation of identification
- Please keep a frozen specimen – some slugs need to be dissected to be identified!

Slug Removal Tip:

Though not interested in alcohol, slugs love beer for its yeasty aroma. To trap slugs, place a smooth-sided cup half buried in the soil. Fill halfway with beer and leave overnight. Remove drowned slugs daily.

For more information on invasive species in Yukon, check out the Yukon Invasive Species Council's (YISC) website: www.yukoninvasives.com. Concerned about invasive plants on your farm? Sign up for YISC's free Walk Your Field Program to have a botany expert come out to take a look and provide management advice.