

# Blitzem

## Snail & Slug Pellets

### What is it?

Yates Blitzem is a metaldehyde based molluscicide that is very effective in attracting and then killing snails and slugs.

### Where can it be used?

Agricultural and horticultural crops as well as in containerised production nurseries.

### How to get the best results

Early detection will enable the best eradication strategy to be developed. Snail populations are generally easier to monitor in late spring and early summer when they become dormant. During this period they tend to climb onto fence posts, buildings and into vegetation where they lie dormant through the warmer summer months. Snails come down from their resting places with the first rains in autumn. Egg laying will take place in late autumn and winter, with hatching occurring in around two weeks. The snails then feed and grow through the winter and spring months prior to becoming dormant again for the cycle to repeat for the following year.

- Early detection late spring early summer.
- Bait application early autumn after initial rain.
- Accurate timing of baiting will assist in reducing the volume of eggs laid during the late autumn and winter months.

### How does it work?

The active ingredient in Blitzem, metaldehyde, causes snails and slugs to produce excess mucus. This excess mucus production is a detoxifying reaction which depletes their energy reserves and weakens them. Cell membranes are damaged and mucus cells are irreversibly destroyed, resulting in the desiccation and death of snails and slugs. They cannot recover by taking in moisture after this process has taken place.

- Blitzem contains a special bait, which attracts snails and slugs.
- Blitzem works on both contact and stomach action.
- Metaldehyde is broken down by soil microorganisms into carbon dioxide and water.
- Blitzem contains a bittering agent to help prevent animals from ingesting. Animals should spit out the product shortly after tasting.
- Blitzem is mould resistant.

### Active constituents

15g/kg Metaldehyde

### Pack sizes available

25kg, 500kg and 1 tonne.



## Directions for use

<b>Situation</b>	Around vegetables, ornamentals, fruit and all other plant life.
<b>Pest</b>	Snails and slugs
<b>Rate</b>	50g per square metre
<b>Critical comments</b>	Scatter pellets evenly around plants wherever snails and slugs are active. After rain being the ideal time.

## Product features and benefits

**Highly Attractive** : Formulated and extruded with a cereal carrier which makes the pellets highly attractive to snails and slugs.

**High Application flexibility** : Pelletised for easy mechanical application (able to be spread, drilled with seed or applied by air).

**Long Lasting** : Proven mould resistant formulation for long lasting control in wet conditions.

**Increased Safety** :The addition of a bittering agent reduces potential for poisoning of none target species.

**Highly Efficacious**:The formulation works both on contact and via stomach action which is irreversible.

**Environmentally Friendly**:The active ingredient metaldehyde is broken down by soil micro-organisms after around 3 weeks and converted into carbon dioxide and water.

**Economical** :Available in 25kg, 500kg and 1 tonne bulk bags making it economical for both Agricultural and Horticultural usage.

**Australian Made** : Manufactured in Australia with short product lead times required to meet market demands.

## Product specifications

Active Ingredient : 15g/kg of Metaldehyde

Bait size : Diameter 2.5mm x length 9.9-10.9 approximately

Product Colour : Light green

Other product additives : Bittering agent and mould inhibitor

Baits per kg : approximately 21,000

Pack sizes : 25kg, 500kg and 1 tonne bulk bags

## Question and answers

**When should Yates Blitzem be applied?**

Understanding the life cycle of snails will give an good insight to key control periods. Snails are generally dormant through summer. This is a good time to determine population levels as they tend to congregate around fence lines on and around buildings and up in the foliage of trees and shrubs.

Snails come out form their resting places in Autumn generally after the first major rain event. They lay their eggs in late autumn and winter. These eggs take around two weeks to hatch.These new snails then feed and grow through winter and spring prior to returning to dormancy in the summer months.

Baiting strategies will vary by crop type but generally Autumn is the key baiting period. In South Australia mid April is the key time especially in cereal, canola and pulse crops. In specific horticultural crops monitor populations and seek advice prior to application to determine the most effective baiting strategy.

**Can Yates Blitzem damage my plants or crop?**

No, metaldehyde is harmless to plants.



## Question and answers (cont)

What is the general snail life cycle?

Snails are hermaphrodites which means each snail is both male and female. On average each snail lays 100 eggs.



How should Yates Blitzem be applied?

Yates Blitzem is an extruded pellet which gives it good application flexibility. It can be applied via mechanical spreader, air seeder or via aerial application. Baiting should consider pest numbers and baits should be evenly applied over the recommended areas and never mounded or heaped at the base of fence line posts or around building structures.

How long will the baits remain active in the field?

Depending on weather conditions baits can remain efficacious for up to 3 weeks. After this time soil micro organisms break the metaldehyde down into carbon dioxide and water. Yates Blitzem is effective in wet conditions and also has a mould inhibitor to maximise baiting periods in the field.

Where are the key regions where snails are now a major problem?

Over the last few years we have seen snails creep eastwards from South Australia, where in the York Peninsula they are now endemic. In these areas they are also a problem at harvest where they can block machinery and contaminate grain samples. This potential contamination can lead to lower grain prices and threaten export sales opportunities.

If snails are in high numbers when sowing occurs, poor crop establishment can occur in some crops. In wheat, pulses, faba beans, lentils, field peas, chickpeas and citrus snails can be a major problem if not controlled.

Snails typically only move a short distance on their own. Spread is generally based on their ability to hitchhike interstate on machinery and farm equipment. The major areas where snails have been found in Victoria are along major highways from South Australia.

Citrus groves have also proved to be a suitable habitat for the small brown snail with populations established in the Riverland and Sunraysia districts. Low numbers of snails have now also been detected in the Riverina area.



