



NCDA&CS

Plant Industry Division Plant Protection Section

PEST ALERT

Brown Garden Snail

Cornu aspersum (Müller, 1774)
(Pulmonata: Helicidae)



Brown garden snail (BGS) is a phytophagous snail which means it feeds on plants, making it a pest of crops and ornamentals. Although intentionally introduced into the United States by way of California in the 1850s as a source of escargot, BGS has been accidentally introduced into the environment and has spread into unintended areas, making it a threat to plant life.



a) Brown garden snail adult; b) Brown garden snail shell; c) Brown garden snail laying eggs; d) Brown garden snail juveniles just after egg hatch; e) Brown garden snails on large lemon for size reference [Images a, c, and e courtesy of Bill Frank, Jacksonville Shell Club, Image b courtesy of Paul M. Choate, University of Florida, and Image d courtesy of Ken Gray, Oregon State University]

HOSTS:

Brown garden snails feed on a wide variety of plants including fruit trees, herbs, cereals, flowers, vegetables, ornamentals, and the bark of some trees. There are over 50 species and genera of plants BGS feeds on including, but not limited to, members of the Asteraceae, Brassicaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae, Lamiaceae, Liliaceae, Poaceae, Rosaceae, Solanaceae, and Umbelliferae families.

IDENTIFICATION:

The brown garden snail has a large, whorled (4-5 whorls) shell measuring 28-32mm (1-1¼") when fully grown. The shell is thin with fine wrinkles and is golden yellow with dark brown spiral bands. The shell opening is oval or crescent-shaped and the lip is turned up. Juvenile snails are much smaller having only one whorl when newly hatched. Eggs are small white spheres measuring about 3mm (⅛") in diameter.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

BGS feed on ripe and ripening fruit, leaves of young trees/plants, and young tree bark. Damaged leaves have large chewed areas along the margins. They typically feed at night, though may be observed feeding during the day on wet, overcast days. During the day snails can be found hiding under rocks and overhangs, in crevices, and concealed areas.

WHAT TO DO:

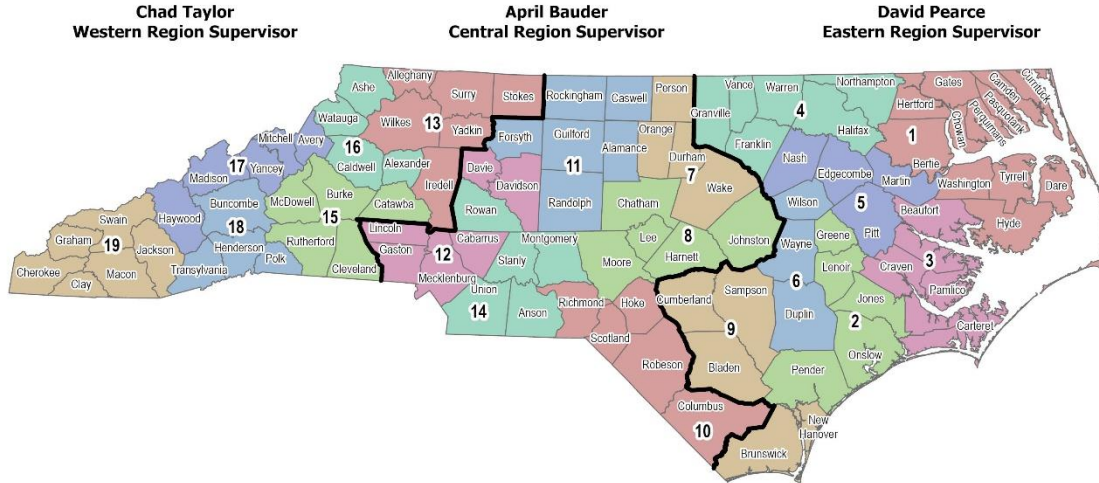
Collect a specimen: Please contact your local Plant Pest Specialist (contact information on back of this sheet) to inform them of a possible infestation and to have them visit the site to inspect the area and collect a specimen for identification. Please do not handle snails with your bare hands.

Take a picture: If you suspect you have BGS, but aren't sure, you can take a photo and email it to newpest@ncagr.gov and someone will either identify it via the photo or contact you to collect a specimen. Please include a size reference like a coin or pen when submitting a photo.

Report a site: If you suspect you may have received infested plant material or have found a brown garden snail infestation in the environment (e.g. landscape, yard) please contact your local Plant Pest Specialist (contact information on back of this sheet) to have them inspect the site.

Note: Brown garden snail is a **regulated pest** and can be easily move through the nursery trade. If you have received plant material from a state known to have an infestation of brown garden snail (Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Washington) please contact your local Plant Pest Specialist to inspect the material to ensure it is free from this pest. We do not want this pest establishing in North Carolina as it is a threat to native plants, agricultural crops, and the nursery trade.

NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Plant Industry Division – Plant Protection Section
Plant Pest Specialist Work Areas



Specialist's Names, Contact Information and Assigned Areas

Area 1:	Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington	Joe Davenport	(919) 608-0635
Area 2:	Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pender	Bonnie Faulkner	(252) 521-3180
Area 3:	Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Pamlico	David Pearce	(252) 670-1742
Area 4:	Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Northampton, Vance, Warren	Derreck Long	(252) 567-1247
Area 5:	Edgecombe, Martin, Nash, Pitt	Juliet Whitehurst	(919) 218-1765
Area 6:	Duplin, Wayne, Wilson	Scott Cannady	(919) 270-4910
Area 7:	Durham, Orange, Person, Wake	April Bauder	(919) 777-3251
Area 8:	Chatham, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Moore	Jensen McLamb	(910) 638-4943
Area 9:	Bladen, Brunswick, Cumberland, New Hanover, Sampson	Chris Carter	(919) 218-8654
Area 10:	Columbus, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland	Michelle Shooter	(910) 734-3477
Area 11:	Alamance, Caswell, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham	Andrew Allen	(336) 404-5873
Area 12:	Cabarrus, Davidson, Davie, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Lincoln	Heidi Humlicek	(406) 750-6432
Area 13:	Alleghany, Iredell, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, Yadkin	Ginger Hemmings	(336) 314-9334
Area 14:	Anson, Montgomery, Rowan, Stanly, Union	Samuel Harris	(919) 604-3896
Area 15:	Burke, Catawba, Cleveland, McDowell, Rutherford	Amanda Cook	(828) 443-1289
Area 16:	Alexander, Ashe, Caldwell, Watauga	Chad Taylor	(336) 466-0478
Area 17:	Avery, Haywood, Madison, Mitchell, Yancey	Tim Hartley	(828) 260-0588
Area 18:	Buncombe, Henderson, Polk, Transylvania	Sue Dial	(828) 577-0915
Area 19:	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain	Ryan Holquist	(828) 421-5445

Mailing Address: 1060 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1060
Physical Address: 216 West Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27603
Phone: (919) 707-3730 | Fax: (919) 733-1041

Please visit our website at www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry for more information!