

# Land Slug



GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# LAND SLUG

CLASS: Gastropoda

PHYLLUM: Mollusca

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ long and thin or fat and lumpy; can be dull or colorful
- ◆ covered in a protective coat of mucus
- ◆ two pairs of tentacles; the longer pair has eyes at the top the shorter pairs smells and tastes
- ◆ slugs are snails without shells although a few species have internal shells.



### Where to Look:

Slugs are nocturnal, but their silvery trails of slime are visible during the day. In the day they are found in damp shady places in lawns, fields and woods. Slugs hibernate in winter.

### Who Eats It?

Slugs are eaten by shrews, moles, centipedes, frogs, toads and beetles.



### LIFE CYCLE

Slugs produce both eggs and sperm. Eggs are fertilized and laid in batches hidden in the soil or under logs and stones. The young slugs look like small adults.

### What It Eats.

Slugs have a long thin tongue that works like a grater to shred food. Some feed on plants, berries and fruits and other eat animal droppings, dead animals and fungi.

### Role in the Ecosystem

Slugs are an important part of the food chain. Several species are also important recyclers.



### Did You Know

The University of California at Santa Cruz football team is called the Banana Slugs, named for a very large, colorful and fast (2 miles/hour) species of western slug.