

Brown garden snail

Cantareus aspersa

Description

Introduced potentially by illegal intentional importation, accidental importation with plant or vegetable shipments

Identification

Brown body; Shell tends to be brown, tan, and yellow with swirls, bands, and flecks; Shell can grow up to 1.25 inches in diameter and leaves a silvery slime trail.

Habitat

Native to Britain, Western Europe, and along the borders of the Black and Mediterranean Seas. Brown garden snails are terrestrial gastropods that prefer undisturbed habitats. Adequate moisture and a good food supply are important habitat requirements. Preference is given to



orchards with loamy soils that are well shaded by tree canopy.

Reproduction

Hermaphrodite though mating is required for fertilization. During the mating process they fertilize each other and both will lay around 80 eggs 3-6 days after the mating occurs. Each snail will create a nest by digging a hole in the soil with its foot. Each hole will be 1-1.5 inches deep. They are able to lay 6 batches of eggs per year and each newborn takes 1-2 yrs to mature.

Impact

The rasping mouthparts of the brown garden snail leave behind irregular holes and jagged edges on the leaves and fruit it consumes and eventually kills the plant.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Manual control (hand collection of individuals), creating barriers to restrict access to foliage; chemical control (carbamates, metal chelates and metaldehyde); and biological control - the predatory snail *Rumina decollata* has found to be an effective biological control agent in California. Molluscicides alone are not effective.

Credits

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