## METAKILL SNAIL & SLUG BAIT

- High efficacy with quick kill from minimal feed consumption
- Lower effect on beneficials compared to blanket sprays
  - Weather tolerance ensures bait availability across multiple emergence events



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# METAKILL

#### The Product

Snails are becoming an increasing problem in Australian broad acre systems as the move to conservation farming practices (no till, less burning and less tillage) create the ideal habitat for snails. Snails will reduce crop yield by feeding directly on seedlings and plant leaves. Snails need only 1-2mm of rain in late summer to come out of their aestivation (hibernation) phase and move into the crop. Given conditions stay moist and cool they will stay in the crop to feed, with reproduction occurring from April through till September. New research suggests humidity is also a trigger for snail movements and reproduction. Consecutive days above 80% are likely to see snail mating activity commence.

Each snail can lay around 400 eggs per season, meaning a fencepost housing 4000 snails (around 30cm of post) will produce 1 million offspring<sup>(1)</sup>. Therefore applying a robust snail bait prior to egg-laying is essential to control snails and prevent crop damage. Metaldehyde is a highly effective option for snail control and works by causing excess mucous secretion and desiccation inhibiting movement and poisons the nervous system.

### Rates

Snails will not seek out baits. however they will consume them if they come into contact with them, so it is extremely important to maximise the number of bait points (pellets/m<sup>2</sup>) within the crop. Imtrade Metakill has a uniform small pellet size which delivers approximately 76 pellets/m<sup>2</sup>. This increases the potential for snails to encounter the bait when they are actively foraging for food. A study conducted by GRDC (2012) shows a proportional relation of baits/m<sup>2</sup> versus % snail mortality (Figure 1) (1) Any product under 70 000 baits/kg will not provide sufficient bait points /m<sup>2</sup> to be effective.



**Figure 1:** Per cent mortality (± Standard Error) of juvenile Italian white snails showing increased mortality with increased number of baits per m<sup>2</sup> at two snail densities

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 Grains Research and Development Corporation, September 2012, "Snail Management Fact Sheet", pp. 6.
Ref DeGraaf, H, 2012; Effect of size & density of bait pellets on juvenile snail mortality GRDC

#### For more information on Metakill, visit **imtrade.com.au** or contact your local Imtrade representative on **1800 171 799**

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