



Slowing down slugs



The Buzz Club are investigating how well alternative control measures for slugs and snails work. We are looking at methods to help the **establishment** of plants, where the older plant is resistant, but the seedling stage / young plant is vulnerable.

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- ✂ To take part in this project, you need to grow annual vegetables like **peas / beans / squashes** – something that grows from a large seed, and is fairly tough when mature.
 - 🐌 You can grow any plant you like, as long as you use the **same sort** of plants for each experiment (you *can* do multiple experiments, e.g. all beans **and** all peas).
 - ✂ You need to grow a minimum of **two** plants per experiment – one control plant (no treatment method), and **at least one** under one of the methods shown on the 'treatments' page overleaf.
 - 🐌 Ideally, these plants should be grown in **pots** (we suggest 3L to give enough soil), to make applying the treatments easier. However, you can grow them in the ground if you want to (but let us know what you are doing!).
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✂ Equipment list 🐌

All experiments

Seeds
Fresh compost / clean soil
Pots to grow plants in (3 litre)
Saucers for under pots to conserve water*

Depending on chosen methods:

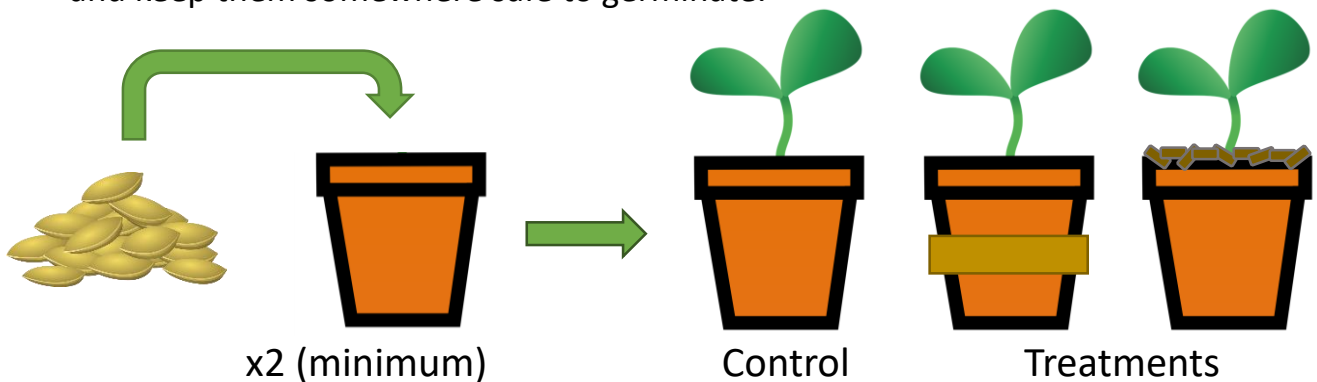
Copper tape (sticky backed)
Copper coins (penny / tuppence)
Sheep's wool pellets
Sharp grit
Garlic
Plastic bottles (1L +)

** Unless growing squashes, which do not like to sit in water.*

Instructions



- 1) Choose your **plant**. This can be a plant you usually grow, or a new type.
- 2) Decide how many **methods** you want to test. You will need **at least 2 plants**: a **control**, and one for **each** of the experimental plant(s).
- 3) Plant seeds in pots, according to package instructions / your usual technique, and keep them somewhere safe to germinate.



- 4) When your seedling start to come up, **record the date** and **apply the treatments** you have chosen (see overleaf).
- 5) Keep the growing plants in the **same** conditions, in the **same** place.
- 6) The experiment finishes **six weeks** after the first seedling appeared. Take the **final observations** (below).

Things to record

During the experiment:

1. If a plant died, **when** it died.
2. If a plant died, did it die from **slug / snail damage**, or **not***?

** Even if the plant dies of something else, it's still important to record why!*

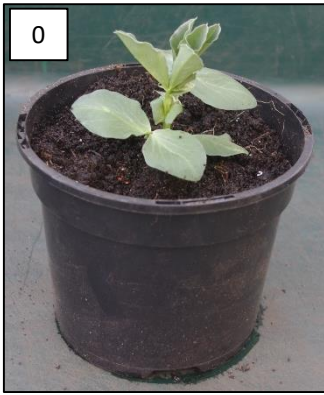
At the end:

3. Which plants survived to 6 weeks?
4. How tall is each plant now?
5. Do they show any signs of slug / snail damage?
 - i. If so, how many leaves are affected?
 - ii. How many leaves are not affected?

 Let us know what happened! 

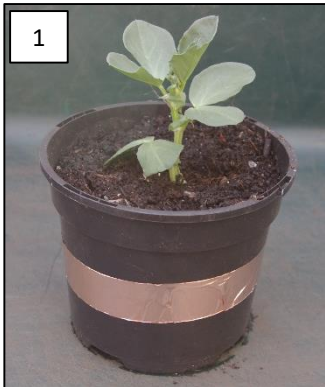
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Treatment methods

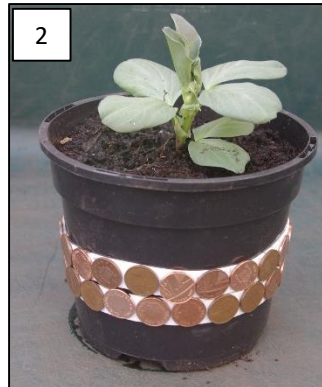


All these examples are shown with **broad bean** plants, but you can use different plants!

0) You need at least one control plant, with no treatments applied to it.



1) **Copper tape.** Cut enough tape to make a ring around the centre of the pot (overlapping slightly). Place midway up.



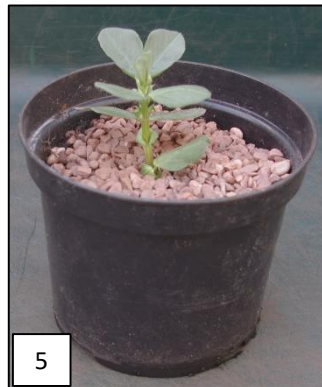
2) **Copper coins.** Using 1p or / and 2p coins, and double-sided tape, make a 2-layer ring around the pot. Coins should be clean and not covered in anything.



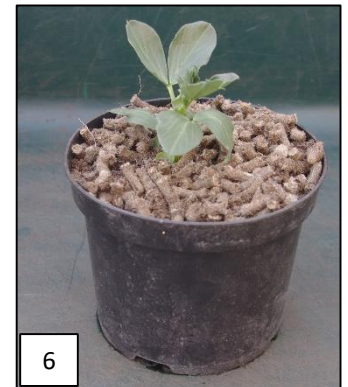
3) **Bottle greenhouse.** Cut the bottom off a large plastic bottle and cover the young plant. Tie some fleese / mesh over the top to keep ventilation.



4) **Garlic mulch.** Put whole garlic cloves through a food processor to create small pieces and lay around the base of the plant.



5) **Sharp grit.** Create a layer of sharp grit around the base of the plant. You could also use *clean* eggshell pieces if you have them.



6) **Sheep's wool.** Make a thin layer of wool pellets around the base of the plant. Water to make them expand into a complete layer.