



## Escargot!



Yes! I know what 'escargot' is. Yes! I know it's considered a delicacy in some circles. Yes! I know it's and industry! And, yes! My inherent reaction to all of the above is...*You gotta be kidding!!!*

But, just in case *you* are a snail slurper, did you know...

- Snails are gastropods. Gastropod means "Belly footed animal."
- The largest land snail ever found was 15 inches long and weighed 2 pounds! [*Oh, great!*]
- Snails' bodies produce a thick slime. Because of this slime, they can crawl across the edge of a razor and not get hurt.
- Some snails have been known to live up to 15 years. [*Not the ones I find in my garden!*]
- Snails are hermaphrodites which means that they have both male and female reproductive organs.
- Snails usually travel in irregular paths, often traveling in a circle.
- Snails rely mainly on their sense of touch and smell when finding food because they have very poor eyesight.
- Snails cannot hear.
- Snails can retract one or both of their tentacles at a time.
- Because of the suction created by their slime, a snail can crawl upside down.
- Snails are nocturnal animals which means they are more active at night.
- Garden Snails mainly eat garden plants and vegetables, but they will also eat decaying plants and soil.

- The fastest snails are the speckled garden snails which can move up to 55 yards per hour compared 23 inches per hour of most other land snails.
- Garden snails hibernate during the winter and live on their stored fat.
- Garden snails breathe with lungs.
- Garden snails evolved from sea snails about 600 million years ago.
- Escargot may be made from either garden snails or snails actually raised for such.

And, to top it all off...

-May 24th is National Escargot Day [*Arrghh!*]

[<http://www.geocities.com/sseagraves/snailfacts.htm>]



- There are actually snail farms and snail farmers!
- There are special utensils for eating snails.
- A snail's eyes are on the ends of its tentacles.
- Snails have only one foot.

