

What are Brown Garden Snails?

The brown garden snail (BGS), *Cantareus aspersus* (formerly *Helix aspersa*), is an exotic pest that feeds on a wide variety of plants, including various cereals, vegetables, and ornamentals. Native to western Europe and the Mediterranean, BGS has spread throughout the world, in part, due to its use as a food source and movement of infested nursery stock. The snail has been introduced to Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Canary Islands, Chile, Haiti, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Turkey, and the United States. In the United States, *Cantareus aspersus* inhabits most eastern and gulf states and various states west of the Mississippi. In the Pacific Northwest, BGS can be found from California to British Columbia.

Regulations

The Oregon quarantine was established against exotic phytophagous (plant eating or plant feeding) snails in 1983 under Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 603-052-0129. Phytophagous snails are very important garden and agricultural pests causing severe damage to leaves and fruits of many plants. The quarantine includes the brown garden snail, *Cantareus aspersus*, as well as the white garden snail, *Theba pisana*, milk snail, *Otala lactea*, giant African snail, *Achatina spp.*, giant South American snail, *Megalobulimus oblongus*, and all other exotic phytophagous snails.

Areas under quarantine include the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington, and any other state or territory where exotic phytophagous snails are established. The quarantine affects exotic phytophagous snails in any stage of development. Grass sod and all plants with roots in soil and any other plant material or articles capable of transporting exotic phytophagous snails into Oregon are potential hosts or possible carriers of the pests. Hosts and possible carriers are prohibited into Oregon unless accompanied by a certificate of quarantine compliance. A certificate of quarantine compliance (CQC) must be issued by an authorized official from the state of origin. The CQC must state that it has been determined by official inspection immediately prior to shipment that covered commodities were found to be free of all life stages of exotic phytophagous snails or that commodities originate from an area determined by official inspection to be free of exotic phytophagous snails.

The original certification document shall be forwarded immediately by First Class mail or fax (503) 986-4786.

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Plant Program Area,
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A copy of the CQC shall accompany each lot or shipment of the covered commodities. The Oregon receiver to whom the commodities are shipped shall notify the department immediately upon receipt of such commodities and shall hold the commodity until the department releases them. Cut greens, cut flowers and soil-free plants including bare root plants, plant crowns, roots for propagation, bulbs, corms, tubers, and rhizomes of plants washed free of adherent soil are exempted from the quarantine if such plant materials are found upon inspection not to be infested with exotic phytophagous snails or are found not to bear soil accumulations sufficient to carry or obscure any life stage of exotic phytophagous snails. Certified and noncertified covered commodities shall not be shipped together in the same transporting vehicle, and any such mixing of certified and noncertified covered commodities shall nullify certification and result in the rejection of the entire shipment of covered commodities. Upon inspection and determination by the Oregon Department of Agriculture that the transporting vehicle or any properly certified covered commodities are infested with any life stage of exotic phytophagous snails, such shipment shall be found in violation of this quarantine. Raising, maintaining, selling, shipping and/or holding live exotic phytophagous snails within the State of Oregon is prohibited. All covered commodities described in this rule found to be in violation of this quarantine shall be returned immediately to point of origin by the Oregon receiver, or at the receivers option be destroyed under the supervision of the department, without expense to or indemnity paid by the department.