

METAREX[®]

ALL WEATHER SLUG AND SNAIL BAIT

A Grower's Perspective

Wangoom farmers and neighbours Roger Wilkinson and Ian Mahood both have very successful summer brassica crops this season. That's because they were able to remove the slug and snail burden with Metarex under challenging, wet spring conditions.

"Our crops are looking fantastic this summer thanks to the Metarex which kept those slugs and snails away during the spring planting".

Last autumn, when planting annual ryegrass for silage, Roger was unaware he had a slug problem. The slugs caused an estimated 1/3 reduction in his silage yield, costing over \$300/ha in lost production.

A long, wet spring followed – ideal conditions for slugs and snails. So before sowing their turnip break crops in early November 2019, Roger and Ian used

Metarex Monitoring Mats to make an informed decision about baiting. They found an average of 5 slugs per mat, which equated to 20 slugs per square metre. Grey field slugs were the predominant species, followed by black keeled slugs and conical snails.

Action was needed. Roger and Ian both used Metarex which controlled the slugs and snails and resulted in successful turnip crops.

"I found Metarex easy to use and it worked well," Roger said. "The Metarex was easy to spread and I liked how evenly it went out. We can often get coastal showers around here, so the fact Metarex is rainfast reassured me. It cost a bit more than other products but it was worth it for the rainfastness. If I have a slug problem in the future, I will definitely use Metarex again."

Roger has now placed 550 recently shorn lambs onto the turnip crop. He plans to plant back into annual ryegrass in autumn for an early spring cut silage. Roger and Ian feel confident they are on top of the slug problem and know they can rely on Metarex to provide fast, consistent control even under wet and difficult conditions.



Figure 1. Ian Mahood (left) and Roger Wilkinson (right) – happy with their summer brassica crops thanks to Metarex.

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