

Invasive Species Alert

Brown Garden Snail

(*Cantareus aspersa*)

Not detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Brown body
- Shell tends to be brown, tan, and yellow with swirls, bands, and flecks
- Shell can grow up to 1.25 inches in diameter
- Leave a silvery slime trail



Photo: Phil Bendle

Habitat: Brown garden snails are terrestrial gastropods that prefer undisturbed habitats. Adequate moisture and a good food supply are important habitat requirements. Preference is given to orchards with loamy soils that are well shaded by tree canopy.

Diet: Snails are omnivorous, but their diet consists mainly of a wide variety of ornamental plants, weeds, flowers, fruits, and vegetables.

Native Range: Native range includes Britain, Western Europe, and along the borders of the Black and Mediterranean Seas.



Photo: Robin Rosetta

U.S. Distribution: The brown garden snail can be found along the west and east coasts, and in most southeastern states.

Local Concern: The rasping mouthparts of the brown garden snail leave behind irregular holes and jagged edges on the leaves and fruit it consumes and eventually kills the plant.

Potential Means of Introduction: Illegal intentional importation, accidental importation with plant or vegetable shipments

Report this species at www.misin.msu.edu or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone