

# Invasive Species Alert

## Heath Snail

(*Xerolenta obvia*)

\*Detected in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Chalky white colored shell with dark spiral bands
- Flattened shell shape with relatively large umbilicus (hole on in the center of the shell's underside in some species)
- Aperture (opening) of the shell is oval

**Diet:** Feeds on a wide range of plants including, alfalfa, clover, lupine, wheat, barley, fruit trees, and weeds

**Habitat:** Heath snails predominantly inhabit open, dry habitats such as dunes, sand hills, open meadows, and rocky hillsides.

**Native Range:** Areas of Southeastern Europe

**Local Concern:** Heath snails infest a wide variety of plant species including grapes, peas, beans, hay and other agricultural crops. Heath snails have the potential to reduce crop yield and quality, contaminate fruits, vegetables, and hay, and transmit plant and animal diseases.



Photo: [Martina Eleveld](#)



Ross Mayhew, Schooner Specimen Shells, Bugwood.org

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