

Invasive Species Alert

BROWN GARDEN SNAIL

(CANTAREUS ASPERSA)

PROHIBITED 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.
- Leaves a silvery slime trail.

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.

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.

MEANS OF INTRODUCTION: Illegal intentional importation, accidental importation with plant or vegetable shipments.

REPORT THIS SPECIES: Visit [MISIN.MSU.edu](https://www.misin.msu.edu) or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone.

Photos courtesy of Phil Bendle (top) and Robin Rosetta (bottom).