

# Invasive Species Alert

## CARTHUSIAN SNAIL (MONACHA CARTUSIANA) PROHIBITED IN MICHIGAN

### IDENTIFICATION:

- Shells are pale white to yellow.
- Shell may have brown stripes.
- Aperture (opening of shell) is typically the darkest part of the shell in adults.
- Shells size: 6-10 mm high, 9-17 mm wide.

**HABITAT:** Dry, grassy areas are the preferred habitat of these snails. During the day, they attach to the stems of grasses and plants.

**DIET:** These exotic snails feed on a wide variety of live and dead plant materials and act as a pest to native vegetation.

**NATIVE RANGE:** Mediterranean region and southeastern Europe.

**MICHIGAN DISTRIBUTION:** Two populations have been found in the Detroit area and are under treatment due to a high pest potential.

**LOCAL CONCERN:** Carthusian snails are an intermediate host for livestock parasites, including sheep lungworm disease. Additionally, established populations may cause damage to horticultural and agricultural crops and threaten native plant communities.



**MEANS OF INTRODUCTION:** It is thought that marble, stone and tile imports are significant risk pathways for exotic snails and slugs.

**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 Lubos R. Kolouch, Bugwood.org (top) and James D. Young, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org (bottom).