

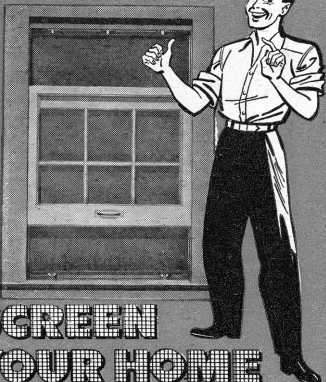
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*The nation of Iceland is in acute danger! Prepare yourself! Secure your flowerbeds!*

## *Why do I need to be concerned?*

Reliable sources confirm that a box full of slugs is standing in a shed in the danish countryside right now, ready to be sent to Iceland. If it reaches its destination and the animals inside are unleashed, Iceland will have to face a major pest problem.

The slug's impact on central and northern European countries is already severe. The consequences of a slug invasion in a country like Iceland, with a fragile ecosystem and comparatively little plant growth, would be devastating.

To the sceptics it might be added that precedent cases do exist. Around the year 1000 A.D., Icelandic settlements on Greenland had to be abandoned for several reasons. Archaeological observations of the western viking settlement have shown that an overpopulation of butterfly larvae must have been a crucial factor. Remains of their cocoons were found in thick layers. The larvae attacked the sparse vegetation that the settlers were dependent on to feed cattle and sheep. Thus, the settlers were deprived of their means of existence.



*The once thriving Norse civilisation on Greenland lies in ruins. Will Iceland soon look the same?*

## *You must take action now!*

What you can do to prevent a tragic catastrophe:

- Protect your flower beds with slug fences. These should either be electric fences or bent at a sharp angle to prevent slugs from crawling over. Salt rings around every flowerbed will provide additional security. The salt may however worsen soil quality. Alternatively, apply rings of sawdust, quick lime, coffee grounds, tealeaves, ash or fir needles.

- Make use of beer traps - cups filled with stale beer, dug into the ground.

- Spray slugs and plants with coffee. Scientists have found out that liquid coffee can help to protect your plants against slugs. It is not yet quite clear how the coffee kills the slugs. Most likely it's the caffeine it contains which works as a nerve poison.

- The introduction of hedgehogs into the Icelandic fauna must be considered. These are natural enemies of the slug. On the Scottish Islands of Uist hedgehogs were already introduced by a gardener to fight the slug pest. This would also significantly reduce bird population, because hedgehogs feed on eggs.

- Purchase ducks that feed on slugs, e.g. the Indian Runner Duck.

- Patrol your garden nightly and kill every slug encountered. Destroy any slug eggs (approx. 4mm in diameter, whitish) found.

- Avoid planting anything slugs are especially attracted to. Rather cultivate plants like rhubarb that are avoided by slugs.

- Check newly aquired plants for slugs and eggs.

- Water your garden in the morning, rather than at night.



*Recommended shape of slug fence*



*Indian Runner Duck*