



Photo: Arthur Chapman, Flickr



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Washington Invasive
Species Council

Vineyard Snail



Vineyard snails can clump together, causing clogs and crop damage. Photo: Washington State Department of Agriculture



Photo: Washington State Department of Agriculture

What Is It?

The vineyard snail (*Cernuella virgata*; occasionally referred to as the Mediterranean white snail) is small and white or tan in color with dark brown spiral bands. This snail often is found on top of vegetation, particularly crops, where it can survive long periods of hot and dry weather without food. It can clog harvesting machinery, contaminate crops, and carry a variety of diseases.

Is It Here Yet?

Yes. The vineyard snail was detected at the Port of Tacoma in 2005. This population is still being actively addressed through joint efforts by the Washington State Department of Agriculture, Washington State University, and the Port of Tacoma. No snails have been detected outside of the port area.

Why Should I Care?

The vineyard snail eats cereal and legume crops, pasture vegetation, and likely many types of native plants. It goes into a dormant stage in the summer, often on top of crops, which can lead to clogging of harvesting machinery and contamination of harvested crops. This snail also can carry plant, animal, and human diseases.

What Are Its Characteristics?

- A mature snail is less than 1 inch in diameter.

 **Report Sightings**



[Invasivespecies.wa.gov](https://invasivespecies.wa.gov)

Vineyard Snail

- The shell has five to seven convex whorls, which are white or tan and usually have dark brown spiral bands.
- The shell's mouth is round with an internal rib, which may be white or brown.



A look at different views when identifying the vineyard snail. Photo: H. Zell, Wikimedia.

How Can We Stop It?

This snail is regulated under the federal Plant Protection Act, meaning that the U.S.

Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is responsible for taking actions to exclude, eradicate, and control it. Importers should examine overseas shipments and report any suspected invasive snails to the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

What Should I Do If I Find One?

Report immediately via the WA Invasives mobile app or reporting web form at <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/report-a-sighting/>.