



# CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS

PROTECTING CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

## Giant African Snail

The Giant African Snail is also known as *Achatina Fulica* is a large terrestrial snail native to East Africa. It is present in areas of Africa, Asia, India, and South America, on islands in the Pacific, and Indian Oceans in the Caribbean. Isolated populations also exist on mainland North America.



The giant African snail is nocturnal, feeding mainly at night but can be active during daylight hours on rainy days. Large adults are easily visible at these times.

Is regarded as one of the most destructive snails in the world as it will feed on over 500 plants and can survive in many different environments.

They can be found in protected humid areas, e.g., in leaf litter, grassy patches, under rocks or farm debris for juvenile and newly hatched snails.

The giant African snail is capable of laying over 500 eggs in one clutch and producing subsequent clutches without needing to mate again.



Large populations of this snail may also foul ponds and catchments that supply water for humans and livestock.

The pest is also of concern to public health as it can carry the rat lungworm, *Angistrongylus cantonensis*, which can cause a type of meningitis in humans, dogs, and horses.

For more information on this plant pest!

<https://www.cphdforum.org/>