

LEARN ABOUT MOLES



Moles tunnel year-round looking for food.

More About Moles

Moles are solitary creatures except during mating. Females produce one litter a year in spring with two to six offspring. After a month or so, the young set out to develop their own tunnel systems which frequently increases the grassless streaks or unsightly "mole hills" on lawns.

MOLES

Moles are an ancient species of mammals that are well adapted to their life underground. With their powerful forelimbs, moles excavate through the ground in search of food. These industrious creatures can tunnel up to 100 feet per day, causing significant damage above ground.

To fuel this high energy lifestyle, moles require vast quantities of high protein foods. They consume grubs and insects but their favorite food is the earthworm. Contrary to popular belief, moles do not eat plants, roots or bulbs.

Moles live underground most of their lives. Moles seen on the surface are most often juveniles, forced from their mother's nest and moving to establish their own tunnel system.



Do You Really Have Moles?

While moles have had millions of years of evolution in honing their excavation skills, they are not the only creatures that instinctively dig or that will occupy mole tunnels. In fact, there are a variety of rodents (unrelated to moles) that will gladly take advantage of abandoned mole tunnels as safe passageways from area to area.

Two rodents commonly mistaken for moles are pocket gophers and voles. However, pocket gophers and voles make clearly visible entry and exit holes to their tunnels. Look for these especially at the beginning and end of visible tunnels.

Pocket Gopher: Unlike moles, pocket gophers are rodents. They are grain eaters. With their large clawed forepaws, they grow from 5 – 14 inches in length.



top: pocket gopher
bottom: vole

Voles: Voles are rodents and generally are 4 – 7 inches in body length with small eyes and ears. They eat a variety of plants, grasses, crops and bark. Their presence is evident by damage to ornamentals, trees, and garden plants. Voles have been known to occupy abandoned mole tunnels.

Mole Damage

The presence of moles is evident by the damage to lawns occurring when moles tunnel underground in search of food. Typically moles create two types of tunnels – surface runways and deep tunnels – each with its distinct appearance above ground.

SURFACE RUNWAYS

Surface runways appear as raised, brown, grassless streaks on a lawn, created when moles tunnel below. These unsightly patches fall into two categories: primary and exploratory.

Primary runways indicate active tunnels that you will want to bait. Generally they are long and relatively straight tunnels that a mole will travel through as often as 3 times a day.

Exploratory runways, on the other hand, have the appearance above ground more like a spider web. Moles create them as they explore new feeding areas. They are often abandoned and should not be baited.



DEEP TUNNELS

Deep tunnels are often 3 feet or more underground and consist of the mole's living, food storage and latrine areas. Deep tunnels are evident above ground as "mole hills" which are created when the mole pushes soil and debris to the surface while establishing or expanding these tunnels.

TIP: Before baiting, it is important to properly identify the primary surface runways and deep tunnels because each requires a specific baiting and treatment strategy to achieve the most consistent results.

