

# growing GUIDE

# MOLE, VOLE & GROUNDHOG CONTROL



## MOLES

Moles feed mostly on ants, earthworms, and grubs. They typically do not feed on bulbs or roots of plants.

Moles burrow complex systems of tunnels that can cause major damage to a lawn. Some of their tunnels are deep while others are sub-surfaced. Moles can create over 100 feet of tunnels in just one day.

They are most active in warm, wet months but live year-round.

The best way to prevent moles from taking up residence in your yard is to treat your lawn with grub control every summer. This will take away one of their food sources. Also, keeping your lawn on the drier side in the summer will attract fewer earthworms.



## VOLES

Voles are much smaller than moles and resemble a mouse. They feed on roots, bulbs, nuts, and fruits.

Voles create tunnels that are much smaller and are usually on the surface of the ground.

Voles can be prevented naturally by attracting animals that hunt voles. Cats are excellent vole hunters. Planting more trees in your yard may also attract hawks and owls which also hunt voles.

To keep voles out of flower beds, some suggest creating a gravel perimeter just slightly underground in the bed as they do not like to burrow through rocks.

## GROUNDHOGS

Groundhogs can weigh up to 14 lbs and typically burrow 2-4 feet underground. They can often create tunnels under decks, patio, sheds, barn, or even underneath a home. They also tunnel in open fields.

In addition to disturbing the soil, they can eat up to 1.5 pounds of vegetation in one day. Many have issues with groundhogs destroying their garden in a short amount of time.

Groundhogs hibernate from October to February. They are very active on warm spring days, but spend most hot summer days in their dens.

Believe it or not, using Cheyenne pepper can help keep groundhogs out of your yard and garden. Just sprinkle a bit into the burrow holes and hide them with dirt. To treat your whole yard mix 4 spoons of pepper with 2 cups of warm water and spray.





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## TRAPS

Traps are an effective solution for getting rid of moles, voles, or groundhogs. Typically, metal traps work better than plastic. Follow all directions for specific traps.

For moles, walk along the tunnels in your yard and push them down. A mole will only use a run for one day, so the following day, watch to find the new run and set the trap within the run.

Snap mice traps are effective for catching voles. Place them near beds with damage and leave fruit or peanut butter on the trap.

Groundhogs can be trapped using large, live animal traps with food for bait placed inside. Once the groundhog is caught, take it at least a mile away from your property.

## SMOKE BOMBS

Smoke bombs are an additional solution for moles, groundhogs, and other burrowing rodents.

Once you locate an active run, use a shovel or rod to penetrate the run. Make a hole and place the bomb, lit side down, in the run. Be sure to cover the hole with soil. Read all directions carefully before using the product as they may vary by brand.

## PELLETS

Pellets work well for eliminating moles and voles; however they may not be a good choice if you have pets that could get into them.

Once you locate a new run, use a metal rod or a dowel rod to create holes in the runs. Apply the recommended amount of pellets every 10-15 feet. Recover each hole with dirt, being careful to not collapse the tunnel.

Check the treated areas often and treat fresh tunnels as you see them develop. Remember a mole only uses a tunnel for one day, so it is important to push down all old tunnels in order to quickly locate fresh runs.

## REPELLENTS

Repellents are not typically harmful to animals but will deter them away from your property.

To begin, decide where you want the mole or rodent to exit your yard. Secondly, divide your yard in half. Begin the first day with one half, starting at the point furthest from the exit. Follow the suggested rates on the product and spread the repellent on that half, water lightly.

Repeat this process on the other half the following day. Once the mole or rodent has exited your property, apply the product around the perimeter of your yard to keep new moles from entering.

