

# Moles

**AKA:** There many mole species; Star-Nosed, Eastern, Broad-Footed, etc.

**Scientific Classification:** Animalia, Chordata, Mammalia, Eutheria, Soricomorpha , Talpidae, *Genera*.

**Size & Markings:** Moles are small subterranean mammals with brown, black or grey fur, tiny or invisible eyes and ears, small back legs and short, powerful front legs with large paws for digging. Adults are between 4 to 6 inches long and weigh between 9 and 20 ounces. Some can dig at speeds up to 4 miles per hour! Moles were once harvested for their pelts to make fashionable coats. It could take hundreds of pelts to make one coat. Thankfully, this wasteful and brutal fad has ended.

**Habitat:** With their long, curved claws, moles live in soil that will retain the shape of the tunnels and provide them with their preferred food of earthworms. Unfortunately for those that maintain them, large grassy fields are ideal mole habitat. Humans and moles clash when these expert tunnelers decide to live under ball fields, golf courses, cemeteries, public parks, lawns and gardens.

**Life Cycle:** The female mole (called a sow) and male mole (called a boar) mate once a year. The rest of the time moles live solitary lives. The sow gives birth to 2 to 4 mole 'pups'. The pups leave the nest chamber 30 to 45 days after birth to establish their own territories. Some territories may overlap, but in general moles are careful to avoid each other. Males that meet underground often fight to the death. They will protect their territory and food sources with their lives.

**Food:** Moles hunt and feed on earthworms. A mole's saliva contains a toxin that paralyzes the worms so the mole can eat its meal right away or it can be stored to eat later. Moles often construct special underground larders which can contain thousands of paralyzed earthworms. Moles that eat plant roots is a myth - they are almost exclusive in their diet of earthworms.

**Impact on Human Health:** Other than tripping on mole hills, Moles do not present a significant risk to human health. Most of the damage done is visual.

**Impact on Property:** Moles damage property by tunneling in lawns, grassy areas, gardens, landscaping, golf courses, cemeteries and more. The physical act of the tunnelling often kills the grass above the tunnel. This can also undermine the roots of plants - killing them in the process. Some mole damage can be alleviated by removing only pushed up dirt of the mole hill, leaving the tunnels and chambers underneath intact for the moles use.

## Mole Control Methods:

**Repellents:** *Mole and Gopher Spray Repellent, etc.*

**NOTE:** It is your responsibility to check local, state and federal regulations regarding the control of bird and/or animal species.

Simply purchasing the best control does not guarantee success. Best results come from a thorough knowledge of both the species and the product or method you employ. If you have any questions, please contact Nixalite of America Inc and speak with a wildlife control product specialist.



*How do you know you have moles? Check the yard for piles of dirt like these. Suddenly appearing dirt mounds are a sure sign of moles.*



*Moles are perfectly suited for subterranean life. They rely on a powerful sense of smell and the ability to feel faint vibrations to hunt their preferred prey - earthworms.*



*Always use proven traps, repellents and baits for mole control. Don't rely on the latest and greatest 'guaranteed' ultrasonic gizmo.*

*Note: factual content from Wikipedia, US Center for Disease Control, National Geographic and others.*



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