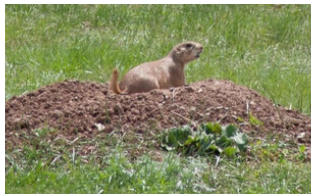


# RODENTS IN GOSHEN COUNTY

WHAT'S EATING MY GRASS? | THERE ARE HOLES IN MY YARD! | TUNNELS!

## BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOGS

- Tan body, buff-white belly, and black-tipped tail
- 14-17" long, weigh 2-3 lbs
- Short ears, large black eyes
- U-shaped burrows
- Tunnels 7-15' deep
- Life span 3-4 yrs, 1 litter/yr
- Colonies span up to a mile
- Multiple entrances allow for escape routes
- Feed on grasses, flowers, roots, and seeds



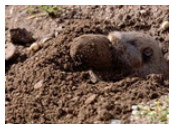
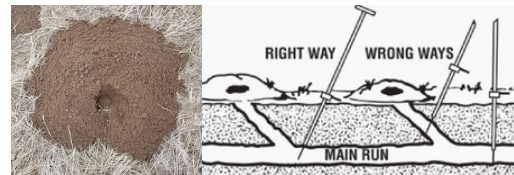
### TREATMENT

- Most products require an applicator license
- Toxic baits and fumigants very effective when used properly
- Trapping, barriers, and shooting may be useful



## POCKET GOPHERS

- 5-10" long with short tail
- Small eyes and ears
- Long, curved front claws
- Large, yellow incisor teeth
- Fan-shaped mounds 12-18" wide and 4-6" tall with a "plug"
- Main tunnel 4-18" deep, lateral tunnels end at a mound
- Prefer feeding underground on alfalfa, herbs, shrubs, and trees
- Most damage noticed, especially girdling of trees, after snow melt



### TREATMENT

- Applicator license required for some products
- Trapping and baiting most successful in main tunnel
- Grain baits treated with anticoagulant, strychnine, etc.
- Protect gardens, trees, etc. with mesh hardware cloth
- Flood irrigation, weed control, and tillage may deter gophers
- Monitor regularly for reinfestation



## WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP YOU!

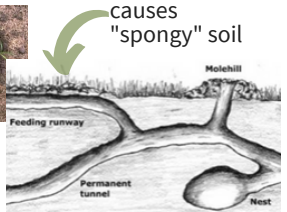
GCWP can help identify rodents and other pests. E-mailing or bringing a photo to our office is most helpful. Cost-share is available on a limited basis to Goshen county residents with prairie dog and pocket gopher infestations.

# IDENTIFICATION IS KEY

FIND THE RIGHT PRODUCT | READ THE LABEL | FOLLOW THE LABEL

## MOLES

- 6-8" long, short tail
- Long snout, barely noticeable eyes/ears
- Paddle-like, clawed front feet
- Insect-based diet (plant damage due to burrowing)
- Raised, cone-shaped mounds
- Shallow feeding tunnels, permanent tunnels 8-12" deep
- Will rarely find above ground
- Not a rodent



## TREATMENT

- Traps should straddle or suspend above tunnel
- Use toxic baits mimicking worms or insects (grain baits rarely effective)
- Repel with daffodils, marigolds, and allium

## RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL

- 10" long, weigh 4-5 oz
- Smoke or yellowish-gray color
- Dappled lighter belly, pale feet
- Long, dark tail
- Prefer green foliage, grasses, forbs, and shrubs



## TREATMENT

- Habitat modification, trapping, shooting
- Toxic baits and fumigants are available
- Poisons available in meal, pellet, wax block
- Bait stations effective if used correctly



## VOLES

- Stockier body than a mouse
- Tail much shorter than body, body 4-8" long
- Holes frequently hidden under plants/leaves
- Single nest with several entrances
- Snake-like runways and paths of trampled grass are noticeable on lawns
- Damage to grasses, bulbs, trees, and plant roots
- Most damage occurs in winter under snow cover



## TREATMENT

- Toxic grains (zinc phosphide or anticoagulants)
- Protect young trees with mesh hardware cloth
- Bait snap traps with nuts, cherry pits, oatmeal, peanut butter, etc
- Eliminate ground cover such as tall grasses and weeds

## JUST A BIT MORE INFO

Several local stores offer products which help manage these pests. Along with proper identification of the pest, correct application of the chosen product is **critical**.  
Damage may also occur from: raccoons, squirrels, digger bees, birds, domestic pets, etc.