AUGUST 2026

Goshen County Weed & Pest NEWSLETTER

Goshen County Weed & Pest

LOOKING TO IDENTIFY AND CONTROL RODENTS?

BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOGS

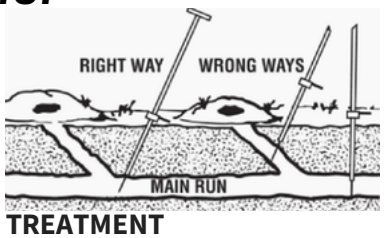
- Tan body, buff-white belly, and black-tipped tail
- 14-17" long, weigh 2-3 lbs
- Short ears, large black eyes
- U-shaped burrows
- Tunnels 7-15' deep
- Life span 3-4 yrs, 1 litter/yr
- Colonies span up to a mile
- Multiple entrances allow for escape routes
- Feed on grasses, flowers, roots, and seeds

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

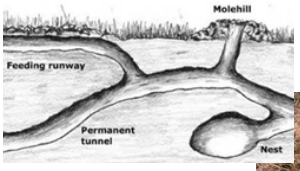
- 5-10" long with short tail
- Small eyes and ears
- Long, curved front claws
- Large, yellow incisor teeth
- Fan-shaped mounds 12-18" wide and 4-6" tall with a "plug"
- Main tunnel 4-18" deep, lateral tunnels end at a mound
- Prefer feeding underground on alfalfa, herbs, shrubs, and trees
- Most damage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

MOLES



causes "spongy" soil

- 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

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

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

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.

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**.

SPRAYING DURING HIGH TEMPS

Spraying weeds during high heat is risky because temperatures above 90°F increase the risk of chemical evaporation, reduced weed control, and severe burn to certain types of grasses.

MOSQUITO TESTING UPDATE

GCWP has been sending mosquitoes to the Wyoming Department of Health to be tested. There have been no positive WNV pools tested in Goshen County for Summer 2026. 37 samples have been submitted to be tested for West Nile virus.

STAY IN THE KNOW

- August 13th - GCWP Board Meeting
- September 7th - Labor Day office closed

307.532.3713 GOSHENWEEDANDPEST.COM GOCOWEEDS@GMAIL.COM
P.O. BOX 757 TORRINGTON, WY 82240