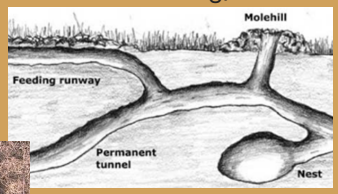
OCTOBER 2022

Goshen County Weed & Pest NEWSLETTER

MOLES, VOLES AND POCKET GOPHERS

MOLES

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



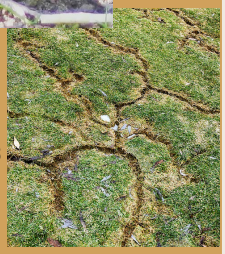
causes "spongy" soil

TREATMENT

- Traps should straddle or suspend above tunnel
- Use toxic baits mimicking worms or insects
- Grain baits are not effective
- Repel with daffodils, marigolds, and allium

VOLES

- Stockier body than a mouse
- Tail much shorter than body
- 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, peanut butter, etc
- Eliminate ground cover such as tall grasses and weeds

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
- Feeds underground on alfalfa, herbs, shrubs, and trees
- Noticeable damage, girdling of trees, after snow melt

Baiting with hand probe

TREATMENT

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

Gopher mounds show hole indent above ground - moles do not

YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME FOR FALL APPLICATION

GCWP will often suggest for landowners to treat plant rosettes in the fall. For the best control, spray small plants after a light freeze compared to five days before the first frost. Plants will be bringing nutrients down through the roots and if herbicides are sprayed during this time plants will bring herbicide down with desired nutrients. Fall weed control is most effective on biennial (musk and scotch thistles) and perennial plants (Canada thistle, bindweed, clover, dandelion).

- Fall herbicide applications are most effective when day-time temperature is 50 degrees or above.
- Night-time temperatures can be below 32 degrees for 4-5 hours several nights in a row.
- Low-growing plants, such as thistle rosettes and dandelions, will remain warmer as soil radiates heat to the plants.
- As temperatures cool, plants metabolize herbicide more slowly so injury and death may take 2-4 weeks to appear.

Canada thistle- treatment during fall with a residual herbicide will provide effective control

Sandbur- use a pre-emergent herbicide for control

STAY IN THE KNOW

- Oct 10- Columbus Day (office closed)
- Oct 13- GCWP Board Meeting
- Oct 31-Nov 3 - WWPC Fall Conference (office closed)

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