

The Turf Store Tips and gardening

Controlling Moles

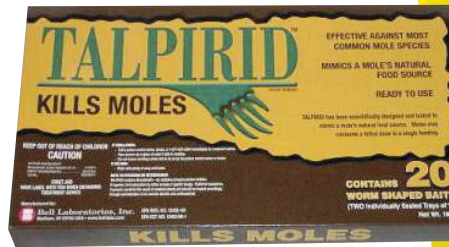


Have you ever been walking across your lawn and find yourself tripping over a tunnel or pushed up dirt mound? More than likely, you have some pesky little critters using your lawn as a highway and feeding area.

Moles are subterranean animals that wreak havoc on our lawns and mulch beds by tunneling throughout your property searching for food. The middle picture above shows a "mole hill" which is above surface point where moles push dirt out of a tunnel to give space. Their main food sources are white grubs and earthworms, but they also will eat any insects found in the soil.

They are active year round although you rarely see any signs of them from late fall into spring because they go down deep to follow grubs and insects as they burrow deep to overwinter. Moles are solitary animals except during mating season so many people mistakenly believe that they have more than one mole. Truthfully, one mole is able to dig up to 150 feet per day...incredible!

There are many wives tales about different methods of control of moles; everything from Juicy Fruit gum



to a child's pin-wheel toy. There are only a few proven methods of control.

Control Methods:

1. Mechanical traps - Use these in a series of 3...directly over the tunnel and subsequent traps set to each side to cover any diversion from their travel path.

2. Time and a shovel - Laugh if you will, but by taking the time to roll over the tunnels to flatten them down, then sitting and watching for new tunnel movement and then using the flat size of your shovel in a quick downward motion directly over the tunnel area.

3. Use a chemical based product called TALPIRID - This is a proven product designed to look like the moles food source - earthworms. Talk to your Turf and Gardening Store specialist for more information about this product.

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