

The Turf Store Tips and gardening

Controlling Voles



Another pesky critter that creates lots of damage to your lawn and landscape is the vole. Some of us have never heard of these little buggers but when you have one, you know it!

Voles are cousins of the field mouse and are omnivorous; meaning they will eat insects but prefer plant roots and bulbs. They are vigorous eaters and are known to damage plants all around your lawn. They have even been known to destroy whole trees by eating away at their root systems. If you take a look at the picture above right, you will see a series of vole holes; an easy way to identify a vole community. Although voles are known as a difficult to control critter, the truth is that they are easier to catch than you think. Since voles are a rodent and similar to field mice, follow these simple steps to help control them:

Control Methods:

- 1. Mechanical traps** - Use simple mouse traps. The key is what bait and the way you set up the traps. Use small pieces of Granny Smith apples with skin attached or a small dab of peanut butter with some oatmeal. When setting the traps, place them near holes that the voles are using to travel and place a small cardboard box over the hole and trap. Voles tend to prefer secluded eating spots.
- 2. Use a chemical based product such as Mole Max or Talpirid** - Mole Max is a repellent with castor oil as its active ingredient. Talpirid is a poisonous bait that looks like a worm...a food source for voles and moles. Talk to your Turf and Gardening Store specialist about this product.

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