

Mole Control
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Moles burrow through lawns and beds leaving 2 ½ to 3-inch wide tunnels. They eat mole crickets, earthworms and grubs. They do not eat plants but do make lawns and beds uneven and unattractive.

The best way to get rid of moles is trapping. Step on their runs in several places, marking the spots. Go back to these spots and see which ones the moles are using. Do this several times. Place the traps in these runs. There can be many moles in one area, so you may have to use the traps repeatedly. Trapping is the most reliable method but as someone said, you may grow old learning how to do it. In other words – it requires diligence and work. See this website for details - <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/wildlife/g09440.htm>

You can try to get the moles to leave by killing their food. Wet the lawn well to bring insects to the surface. Wait 24 hours and spray the lawn or use a granular insecticide to kill lawn insects. Water the chemical into the soil. The moles may leave when they cannot find food. When using insecticides, read and follow all label directions.

Personally, I do not think using an insecticide controls moles very well, but some people seem to like this method. Two of the problems with this method include the fact that it is hard to get insecticides into the soil and the fact that many insecticides do not kill earthworms. Moles like to eat earthworms.

One other method may help control the mole's food supply. Many people water their lawns too often. This creates a great environment for earthworms – which the moles will eat. Water less often but more deeply each time. Let the lawn dry out slightly between waterings. This may reduce earthworm and insect numbers and the moles will have to feed elsewhere.

Water lawns and perennials with one inch of water about once a week or one-half to three-quarter inch twice a week. How long should your system run to put this much water out? Put a rain gauge or can under it, turn it on and time it. Do not water again until the soil dries out. This will usually be about once a week during dry weather. You will probably have to water vegetables and annuals twice a week. Water established trees and shrubs once a week. Watering this way reduces pests, conserves water and produces a healthier plant with deeper roots.

There are many controls that people suggest. Many do not work well if at all. These may include sonic or vibratory devices, chewing gum in holes or planting repellent plants. Trapping is the most sure mole control, but it requires training and work.

When trying to control moles and voles, remember that no matter what you do - you probably will not control them all. The surrounding woods and lawns can replenish those you kill. Learn to manage their numbers and try to accept a little injury.