



Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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Garden Tips

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Got Moles?

Moles, voles, gophers ... something is messing up my landscape and I do not like it one bit. All I know is that whatever is doing the damage is having fun at the Johnson's landscape. Let's take a look at those burrowing animals and try to identify:

#1—what is doing the damage #2—how to control them

Moles

These small, 3-6 oz. animals crisscross your yard a couple of inches deep. As they burrow through the soil, chewing through roots and damaging the turf or plants, they are in search of insects to eat. They normally consume their weight in grubs or other insects every day. As a general rule, if you have moles, you also have grubs eating the roots. Eliminating the grubs in your yard will help in getting rid of moles, but they also eat earthworms and other insects. As a general rule, moles do not eat roots, tubers or bulbs, but survive on insects.

Gophers

These tough-to-control animals do considerable damage to the landscape. They are strictly vegetarians and most of their tunnels are 12-18" below the surface. These animals feed on roots, bulbs, and other plant parts in the landscape. They also will eat tree bark. Their favorite is the bark of fruit trees. The gopher's tunnel is deeper than that of a mole, but less extensive. The entrance to a gopher burrow is at an angle at ground level with a mound of soil. Gophers can make up to 15 mounds of soil per day in sandy soil.

Voles

Also known as "mice," voles can do extensive damage as they move into our turf and gardens in search of food. These animals are active all year. They will not invade the home and are not to be confused with the house mouse. Voles eat a variety of plants. They construct tunnels and surface runways looking for roots, grasses, tubers and bulbs, as well as snails and insects.

Burrowing Animal Controls

Control of these animals includes trapping with a specific trap for each type of pest. We also offer a couple of unique, safe and effective controls by Bonide that will work on all of the above pests.

Moletox Baited-gel is a newly developed bait and delivery system that finally provides guaranteed mole control. The bait mimics natural food in taste, smell and texture. The syringe injector system delivers pre-measured doses directly into tunnels. One syringe treats an entire burrow system and covers up to 10,000 sq. ft.

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Molemax Mole and Vole Repellent repels moles, voles, gophers, rabbits, armadillos and skunks in lawns, flower beds and gardens. Its clean, dustless, biodegradable granules are safe for use around children, plants and pets. One pound treats 500 sq. ft. and lasts up to three months. This easy-to-apply product has the widest label of any product we offer.

Got Holey Soles?

My newest favorite shoe is my new pair of orange, yes ORANGE, clogs from Holey Soles. Check them out at <http://www.holeysoles.us/> These molded foam shoes are great in both the summer and winter. They are anti-bacterial which helps eliminate foot odor. Maybe that is why Nancy got me a pair. Hmmmm.... Anyway, they are easy to clean, give great sole support and come in all sizes and many colors. For less than \$30, you can't go wrong. Anti-bacterial ... I am going to ask her about that.

Dutch Bulbs

If you put off planting your spring-flowering bulbs, it is not too late. Who hasn't taken a bag of bulbs home, left them in the garage (which actually helps cool the bulbs) and forgotten about them? Get them in the ground any time this month, water in very well and you will be set for a show of spring color. We still have a good supply of all types of spring-flowering bulbs, so stop by to see what is new in bulbs.

Until next spring, stay warm, feed the birds and have a great winter. ■