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...and I live in a hole
Moles

Pest Control Services

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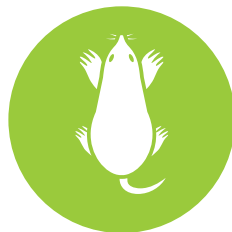
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Moles

Characteristics

The mole (*Talpa europaea*) is covered with black velvety hair and is well adapted for burrowing, with large spade-like forefeet turned permanently outwards for digging. The eyes are very small and hidden among the fur, but well capable of detecting light. The senses of touch and hearing are well developed but smell and sight are less important.

Moles are solitary in their habitats and live almost entirely underground in a tunnel system which may cover an area of 400-2000 sq. metres.

They feed mainly on earthworms but also on various other invertebrates including slugs and insect larvae. Much of the prey is caught when it falls into the tunnel system which acts as a kind of pitfall trap. The mole patrols the tunnel system almost continuously, with activity periods of 4.5 hours alternating with 3.5 hours rest. One of the periods of activity is just after sunrise and another just before sunset.

Where to find moles

The mole is abundant throughout mainland Britain but is absent from Ireland and some off shore islands. It is found wherever there are suitable soils for tunnelling, but it tends to avoid shallow or stony soil, waterlogged or very acid soil. It is most abundant in permanent grassland and deciduous woodland but can be found in playing fields, parks, cemeteries, golf courses and private gardens.

Problems caused by moles

The most important type of damage is due to mole hills, which are not only unsightly on amenity and sporting grassland but result in unevenness of the surface and deterioration of the sward by providing a seed bed for weeds. They are particularly unwelcome on the expensive turf of golf greens and bowling greens. Mole hills can also cause damage to mowing machinery.

In agriculture the inclusion of soil from mole hills in silage grass can result in spoilt, unpalatable silage and is a possible source of the infection Listeriosis in sheep fed on silage.



Damage can occur in arable crops and gardens when moles burrow under seedlings and plants, resulting in wilting and death.

Mole tunnelling activity can disturb archaeological strata.

Underground security systems can be interrupted or triggered by mole.

Life Cycle

The breeding season lasts from February to June and there is usually one litter a year. After a 4 week gestation period the young are born blind and without fur. They develop rapidly and leave the nest when they are 5 weeks old.

Nests for breeding and sleeping are made of dry grass and leaves, either in part of a deep tunnel or in the centre of a large mound of soil known as a fortress.

Control

We provide a trapping service for moles.

Please contact us for further information on treatments and current charges



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