

Tells How To Control Moles In County's Victory Garden

The Eastern mole is largely insectivorous in its feeding habits, the bulk of its food being earth worms, adult insects, and their larvae. They are therefore in many instances beneficial. However, the mole does eat some vegetable matter and in localized instances causes some actual damage to seeded corn in fields and to vegetables in gardens, both by eating sprouted seeds and young stalks, and at times causes damage due to drying out of the roots when the tunnels are made down a crop row. They also make lawns and golf courses unsightly by their tunnelling. Where workings are numerous they occasionally cause damage to mowing machines when cutting hay.

The moles' appetite is almost insatiable, they often eat their own weight in food in a single day. This causes them to be continually at work throughout the year, so that one is led to believe many more moles are present than is actually the case, therefore, complete control is not as hard to secure as one would expect, if thorough control measures are undertaken.

Often field mice and shrews, which also tunnel extensively underground, will frequent mole runs and are the species actually responsible for the damage caused to vegetables and bulb plants. This is certainly the case where damage occurs to shrubs or trees through girdling of their roots. If the stems of your lima beans and tomatoes, or other vegetables, are mangled or shredded it would be the work of the moles. If the stems are cut clean with minute incisor teeth marks showing, the damage is probably caused by

the work of field mice that have been utilizing the ridge runways of the moles. This may be the case, inasmuch as you are located within the active range of field mice. Field mice are readily poisoned with the poisoned grain placed in the runway. The poisoned grain is prepared by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is obtainable through your County Agricultural Agent. The following suggestions in the control of moles are given.

Trapping: It requires patience and perseverance to control moles. Since moles are largely insectivorous in their feeding habits, by far the best means of ridding a lawn or garden of this pest is through the use of specially constructed mole traps—either one of the spear or "harpoon," or the scissor-jaw type, obtained through your local hardware dealer. In setting the trap flatten down an active ridge runway level with the ground, about 10 feet from the end of the newest working, for a distance of about 18 inches. Be careful to set trap accurately astride the runway with trigger touching the depressed ground surface.

Gassing: Another means of control is by gassing. A teaspoonful of cyanogas A-dust placed into ridge-runway at 10 or 15 feet intervals and then plugged, will give good results when used a day or two following a good rain.

Poisoning: Poisoning may give some measure of control when care is taken to properly place baits in ridge runways opened by a small stick and then closed. However, because of specialized insectivorous feeding habits the mole is suspicious of unfamiliar foods foreign to its customary diet. If poisoning is attempted we suggest that you soak white raisins over night, and with the point of a knife, inject a bit of powdered strychnine. These treated raisins on the end of a nail or pointed stick are dropped into the runways. You might also try 1-8 ounce of powdered alkaloid strychnine, 1-8 ounce of baking soda, mix thoroughly and work into 1-2 pound of hamburger. Drop baits about the size of a peanut kernel in tunnels as outlined above.

Flooding: Sometimes mole control can be obtained through flooding. The most practical time of the year for this type of control is in the spring when the young are in the nest. Make a couple of openings near ends of active ridge tunnels. If these are closed by the moles it indicates they are in use. Insert a garden hose in the plugged opening and let water run into the tunnel for 10 or 15 minutes. Remove and repeat operation at other end of mole run.

Deterrent: Moles avoid abnoxious odors or injurious chemicals. However, where the mole is to be controlled on a limited space you may use the following: Make opening in runway with stick and drop a teaspoonful of paradichlorobenzene, naphthene flakes (moth balls), or lye.

There are 10,000 species of wasps known to science.

PERCENTAGE OF HYBRID CORN IS GREATER IN '45

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86 to 96 per cent in Ohio. These are the only states that average above 95 per cent hybrids, but considerable portions of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota and Nebraska immediately

adjacent to those states also average that high. A band of territory in which 80 per cent more of the corn acreage is hybrids embraces most of southern Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, eastern South Dakota and Nebraska, northeastern Kansas, most of Missouri and some "bottom" and blue-grass counties in Kentucky. It is in this area that most of the recent expansion and intensification in use of hybrids

has occurred. A relatively large area in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland, a small area in Connecticut and the irrigated portions of Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Washington and Oregon also have 80 per cent or more of the corn acreage planted to hybrids.

Development of adapted crosses has been a significant factor in the spread of hybrids. Adapted hybrids are appearing throughout most of the country, some for silage purposes pushing the hybrid belt northward, while others are suited to local conditions farther South, notably in Florida, Arkansas, and California. The demand for hybrid seed exceeds the supply of satisfactory varieties, particularly in the South, where expansion awaits development and propagation of desirable seed. Half or more of the 1945 corn acreage was planted to hybrids in 23 of the 45 states. These states rank in order of percentage from nearly 100 per cent in Iowa, down through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Nebraska, Michigan, New Jersey, Maryland, and Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, South Dakota and Kansas, Connecticut and Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Massachusetts, to 50 per cent in Vermont and Utah.

New Peach Containers Tested



SPARTANBURG, S.C.—An experiment designed to reduce waste and spoilage in handling of perishable fruits through controlled methods of packing, shipping and retail selling is now underway in this heavy peach producing area.

Weekly shipments of peaches are being made from the packing house of Stacy Burnett here, a grower-member of the S. C. Peach Growers Association, with the fruit packed in various type experimental containers. These include four, eight and twelve quart consumer packages with collapsible handles and other size cardboard boxes. Refrigeration practices also are being studied. The experiment is being conducted by the agricultural experiment stations of Clemson College and Ohio State University in cooperation with A & P Food Stores and will include later other types of perishable goods from southern states. The local peaches—part of a near-record southern crop—are moving by refrigerated carrier to Columbus, O., where they are displayed by the food chain as part of a research program where all fruits and vegetables are pre-packaged and sold from self-service, refrigerated cases.

The project is part of a long-range plan for grading and packaging quality foods at the production point, according to H. A. Nixon, local A & P buyer who is working with the agricultural colleges and growers on procurement plans. He adds a chief objective of the research is the cutting down of the present estimated loss of 25 per cent in the handling of perishables, thus contributing to increasing the grower's share of the consumer's dollar.

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