

# Vole Control



Sometimes called meadow mice; voles are small (4" to 8" long) rodents with brown or black hair. Voles feed on plant roots, vegetables, grasses, tubers and gnaw the bark of trees. Voles travel in aboveground runways through tall grasses or groundcovers that connect their burrows. There are four methods of vole control; Habitat control, exclusion, repellent and trapping.

**Habitat Control:** Voles avoid open spaces and use tall plants and grasses for cover, so keep grasses mowed and remove any heavy mulch or debris from around plants. Also, cut back or mow the wild edges of fields around your gardens.

**Exclusion:** Keep voles away from newly planted trees and shrubs by encircling them with a mesh hardware cloth. The barrier should be buried 3" in the ground and extend 18" high. You can also protect vegetable gardens this way.

**Repellent:** There are several repellents that are labeled for voles. One that we recommend is **Bonide MoleMax**. It is a castor oil based product and is labeled not only for voles and moles but for skunks and rabbits, too. Apply around your lawn or garden and then reapply in widening concentric circles to drive voles gradually away.

**Trapping:** Any kind of medium size mouse trap can be used for voles. Bait the trap with apple slices or peanut butter and place them perpendicular to the vole runways.

