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VOLE CONTROL TIPS

Voles are small rodents that burrow through the soil, often just under the surface, leaving small one inch holes around your plants. They are related to the common house mouse and can be just as destructive in the landscape and garden as a house mouse in your home. These garden pests often damage or kill your landscape plantings by eating away at the roots and can even cause damage to underground sprinkler lines.

Repellents for lawns and established plantings: Products containing castor oil applied will help “chase” the voles out of areas that you want to protect. The product needs to be applied incrementally according to the manufacturer’s instructions. This will help to direct the voles to the nearest exit point. Products such as **Bonide Mole & Vole Repellent** and **Molexit®** that contain clay granules impregnated with castor oil have the longest period of effectiveness. Applying these products is much easier when using a hand held broadcast spreader. When using any repellent, follow the directions and application instructions that are provided on the package label. Also, be aware that any repellent for controlling voles has limitations and may not entirely eliminate damage, but should help dramatically reduce it.

Protective barriers for new plantings: When planting new plants in the landscape, amending the backfill soil with Permatill ® soil amendment according to the directions on the product will help discourage damage to the roots of the new planting. Voles do not like to dig through materials that are coarse in texture. We have Permatill ® soil amendment in bags for sale at our nursery.

Baiting systems: The repellents and barriers mentioned above are considered effective non-lethal deterrents for dealing with voles. Repellents will need to be reapplied to remain effective and establishing protective barriers has limitations especially for established plantings. Baiting systems are a lethal option for reducing vole populations.

VOLECONTROL.COM has excellent information about voles and their habits and sells bait station systems for eliminating voles. These systems use Kaput rodenticide. Please be cautious and read all of the precautions before deciding to use a baiting system.