



Moles - Quick Reference Sheet¹

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Table 1.

Common Name:		eastern mole
Other Names:		mole
Scientific Name:		<i>Scalopus aquaticus</i>
Appearance:	Size:	about 7 inches long and about 3 to 4 oz. in weight
	Color:	dark brown to nearly black, very soft dense fur
	Other:	very broad paddle-like forelimbs
		naked pointed snout
		eyes and ears not easily seen
Range:		uplands throughout Florida, but absent in Florida Keys
Habitat:		underground tunnels in upland sites
Diet:		mainly insects, grubs and worms below soil surface
Reproduction:		3 to 5 young per litter

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2.

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	one litter per year
Behavior:	excavate extensive tunnel network, 6 to 8 inches below surface that forms raised areas
	dens detected by small (about 3" x 2") mounds of soil that appear on the surface
	active year-round
	solitary and territorial
Problems:	tunnels disfigure lawns, golf courses, gardens, etc.
	tunnels expose plant roots to air, sometimes causing wilting or death
	physical damage to bulbs, etc., usually caused by rodents not moles
Solutions:	only effective method is by killing using bayonet-style trap
	chemicals to control lawn insects often aggravate mole problem
	other methods ineffective
Legal Aspects:	no state or federal laws regulating harvest or otherwise protecting this species
	poisons may not be used to control wildlife in Florida
Fact Sheet Available:	yes