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## Moles

Posted by wickham - 2007/12/14 16:10

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If we have one major problem in common it appears to be moles, they are everywhere (though it is hard to believe probably only 1 or 2 in each garden) and driving us all mad.

So do you have a remedy on how to get rid of them? Most of us don't want to harm them but we want rid of them.

Let us know your remedies, no matter how whacky they may be (most of us are desperate) ...

It's some consolation to find that we're not the only ones getting manic about moles. Ours create new molehills even as we are shovelling up the mounds.

A French friend swears that he got rid of his by trickling sardine oil around the holes. I tried tinned tuna oil as I happened to have it handy and marked the holes I had oiled. So far (about 10 days later) there have been no new molehills near those sites.

The same friend also reported that mole traps were a waste of time. The sort he used required that he bury the traps in somewhere like a compost heap first for about a week in order to get rid of any alien smell that would alarm a mole and to use gloves when installing a trap, for the same reason. But the traps became so rickety after burial and handling they disintegrated before any mole came near.

But if moles are so sensitive to smells this might explain the success of the sardine oil which they interpret, perhaps, as the sign of a dangerous intruder. This opens the possibility of trying other, more convenient substances .... over to you, folks!

A neighbour of a Burgundy Friends member swears by scattering ashes around the perimeter of where you do not want the moles to go but this, somewhat logically, has to happen on Ash Wednesday (or Cendres in French), which this year is Wednesday, February 21.

I've been saving the ashes from our woodburner and intend to give it a go around those areas I most want to protect from the moles. Not sure if it will still work if we have the same amount of snow as we did around this time the last couple of years or even if I'll be able to see the outline of the beds I want to protect...

I'll let keep you informed.

Here are two repellents often used by our neighbours:

Moth balls- (boules de naphtaline) placed in the tunnels.

Fertilizer made with *Ricinus communis* available at Gamm Vert under the commercial name of Tourteau de Ricin.

However, most gardeners around us use much more barbaric and lethal techniques such as placing in the tunnels corks spiked with pins which will prick the mole's snout making him bleed to death. Another sits out on a garden chair and at the first movement in the tunnel will let off both barrels of his trusty two bore.

The most bizarre suggestion comes from a Canadian Government directive: Place in the tunnel rolled up balls of Wrigley's Juicy Fruit chewing gum which the mole will then chew and choke to death. Actually, the site is very informative and should be watched:

Further to my last thoughts here's the link:

<http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca/francais/consum/molesandvoles-f.html>

Personally, I always use traps and provided one follows the instructions they have always proved successful.

For a different perspective read:  
Dunctan Wood by William Harwood published by McGraw-Hill 1980

Well, I've scattered the woodashes yesterday (Ash Wednesday) around the areas where I most don't want moles.. Will keep everyone informed.

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## Re:Moles

Posted by Blitzzen - 2008/08/12 09:47

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Did the ash work? We're hoping that having a cat and three dogs might do the trick. It was certainly mole metropolis when we arrived at the end of July, with one mole hill supplying enough soil for three extremely large flower pots for my crimson glory vines!!

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## Re:Moles

Posted by choir0 - 2008/08/12 15:05

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A friend of mine bought a very cheap birthday card - the type that has music in it when opened - this was put into the hole (opened) and seemed to drive them away!! Having happy birthday played all the time must have got on there nerves!!

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## Re:Moles

Posted by Rein - 2009/06/20 20:30

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Here's one that works

A few year ago I had tried everything on the market such as poisons, smokebombs etc but none worked until i visited Bricoman in Autun about 2yrs ago when I saw something that looks a little like a startingpistol which came complete with 9mm blank cartridges and something that looked like a silencer on the front with just a small hole. It worked with a very sensitive pushpad on the front of this contraption. Seeing as I thought we had hundreds of mole I thought I'd give this thing a try. The idea is that you open the molehill till you find the tunnel and load and place this thing inside the tunnel. Which way you face it depends on which way the mole travels up this channel and how you work this out is a matter of luck. You then place some of the soil back and place something that cuts out daylight and keeps other animals from setting the thing off away. The mole travels up the tunnel until it gets to the trap, tries tu push it out of the way and hey presto, the gun goes off and mole dead. My succesrate? 9 cartridges used and 8 moles gone. One I set off myself accidentally when I carefully tried to bury it. By heck, it certainly put the wind up me.

But it's only activated by the mole, a bit scary when it goes off at night, but at least you know youv'e scored a hit every time.

And I haven't had any moles for a very long time now.

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## Re:Moles

Posted by Kate - 2009/07/13 13:00

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More info please - such as, where exactly did you get this contraption, how much was it, do they still sell them?

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## Re:Moles

Posted by Kate - 2009/07/13 13:04

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Sorry - you did say you got it in Bricoman. I was too excited to notice! Where's Bricoman in Autun?

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## Re:Moles

Posted by Kate - 2009/07/13 13:07

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Sorry - you did say you got it in Bricoman. I was too excited to notice! Where's Bricoman in Autun?

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## Re:Moles

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Posted by Forest1978 - 2010/02/02 13:22

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I know this is an old post, but the lady whose house we are buying has a veggie patch and in it she had spikey green plants about 12" high growing in between the veggies. When we enquired what they were, she replied that they keep the moles away. When we go there next we will try and get a name and take a photo.

Regards  
Colin & Christine

Post edited by: debratomlinson, at: 2010/03/03 21:12

Post edited by: debratomlinson, at: 2010/03/03 21:26

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## Re:Moles

Posted by debratomlinson - 2010/03/03 21:33

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This is the photo of the famous plant which acts as a mole deterrent. Thanks to Colin for sending this to us.

I have also planted something similar which purports to be offensive to moles, but it is more ornamental, *Fritillaria Imperialis*. Seems to have similar leaves to Colin's find but there are lovely bell shaped flowers either orange or yellow. Very dramatic in the Spring garden.

[http://www.burgundyfriends.info/components/com\\_fireboard/uploaded/images/089a\\_\\_2\\_.jpg](http://www.burgundyfriends.info/components/com_fireboard/uploaded/images/089a__2_.jpg)

Post edited by: debratomlinson, at: 2010/03/03 21:34

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## Re:Moles - deterrent plant

Posted by Kate - 2010/03/04 10:51

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It looks like a *Euphorbia* to me - not as pretty as a *Fritillaria*, though it has its charms, and not the same family. *Euphorbias* are useful plants, just be careful when handling them as they exude an irritant sap. That's probably why moles don't like them!

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## Re:Moles - deterrent plant

Posted by Forest1978 - 2010/03/04 17:36

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Thanks for posting this Debra.

My wife Christine, who is the gardener in the family, agrees with what Kate says. Once we move in I will let you know how effective it is against the moles.

Regards  
Colin