

## MOLES

Common Name: eastern mole

Other Names: mole

Scientific Name: Scalopus aquaticus

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  
- 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