MOLES, VOLES & RABBITS

EASTERN MOLE, *Scalopus Aquatius*

**How to recognize**
4–6 inches; short tail and pointed nose. Very short, paddle-like front feet; eyes and ears not visible; very soft fur.

**Indications or Signs of Presence**
Moles live underground; make tunnels, small mounds and extensive ridges 1–2 inches high with lumpy appearance. They feed on worms and small insects but not plants.

**Control**
Ground insecticides will lessen food supply and give some control.

Covered by N.C. law regarding Wildlife Killed for Depredations or Accidentally (10B.0106). Under North Carolina law, all moles are classified as wild, nongame animals. No hunting or trapping seasons are established for moles, and they are subject to all applicable state laws and regulations. Therefore, moles cannot be killed without requesting and receiving a Depredation permit from the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC). In North Carolina, several species of moles occur in very low numbers, so the NCWRC protected all mole species. Call the NC Wildlife Commission for a “Depredation Permit.” 1–800–662–7137. With a proper permit, use spear-type traps for best control.

MEADOW VOLE, *Microtus pennsylvanicus*

**How to recognize**
3 ½ – 5 inch long body and head; tail longer than length of hind legs; dark brown color; tail bi-colored; lighter belly; long grizzled fur.

**Indications or Signs of Presence**
Small, shallow burrows and trails in grass. Trees or shrubs gnawed from ground level up under mulch or snow cover. Damage occurs to trees and shrubs from slightly below ground level and up; lives in areas of dense cover.

**Control**
Environmental control through close mowing or clean cultivation. Use of mouse traps placed in runs and covered with tar paper or a large flower pot is the only control method available to home owners. For poison bait, see Rodenticide Section of the NC Agricultural Chemicals Manual found at [http://ipm.ncsu.edu/agchem/agchem.html](http://ipm.ncsu.edu/agchem/agchem.html).
COTTONTAIL RABBIT, *Sylvilagus floridanus*

What they do
The appetite of a rabbit can cause problems every season of the year. Their diet consists of a variety of plants, including succulent herbaceous materials, bark, fruit, seeds and foliage of woody plants, flowers and vegetables in spring and summer. In fall and winter they damage and kill valuable woody plants.

Control
For information on controls including fencing, habitat modifications, repellents and other methods, go to: http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/wild/wildlife/animals/mammals/cottontail.htm

This information is being provided to you by the Carteret County Master Gardener Volunteers in cooperation with the Carteret County Cooperative Extension Office.