

# How To Control Voles On A Golf Course

By JACK TRIPP

*La Crosse Country Club, Wisconsin*

This is the type of vole trap we use. They are put out after the golf course closes in the fall and filled with Ramik Brown which is a waterproof bait used in orchards, etc. The purpose of the 2" PVC is so other animals can not get to the bait. Ramik Brown can be purchased. We have around 125 traps for 64 bunker banks and other areas. About 1 cup of bait is put in the trap when they are put out in the fall. The reason for the orange cap is so they can be refilled during the winter if needed. A 25# box of bait lasts an entire season.

The picture is not real clear, but the two horizontal ends are cut at around a 45 degree angle to make a "roof" over the cut end to help keep rain from entering the opening. I think each horizontal piece is 12" long and we make our vertical pipe about 18" tall. The bait mainly stays in the pvc tee area.

Other animals will occasionally try to



mess with the PVC bait traps. Coyotes in our case will rip a couple apart each winter.

La Crosse Country Club is an Arthur Hills design so we don't have a lot of high flashed sand. The bunker banks are grass. We place the traps on the edge of the trap about 5" in from the sand. We have been

putting out the traps for 15 years so have a pretty good idea where damage might occur. Damage normally occurs where you have the largest accumulation of snow in the trap bank valley. Most of our bunkers only take 1-3 traps. On our 20,000 sq. ft bunker on #9 fairway I think we put out seven traps.

You don't have to space them real close. The voles seem to find the bait. Also the traps are put out when the course is closed so there is normally several weeks for the voles to find the traps and die before the snow comes.

I will also mention they make Ramik Green which is the same bait which comes in single dose packets. The Ramik Green may be a little more expensive, but makes it easier to refill traps in the middle of the winter. You can throw the single packets more easily in a backpack to carry around through the snow.

Good Luck!

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