

MOLES can be responsible for considerable damage to golf courses and greens which can prove time-consuming and costly to repair.

Rabbits also cause problems because of their grazing and burrowing habits.

Rentokil believe they have the answer to these mole and rabbit pest problems with phostoxin, a 3gm tablet, coated in wax, which on contact with atmospheric moisture gives off phosphine gas, lethal to moles and rabbits. Phostoxin is manufactured in Germany and distributed exclusively in the UK and Eire by Rentokil.

From November onwards, mole activity becomes a serious problem as it is their breeding season and they are at their most active.

Moles belong to the order of mammals known as the Insectivora, which also includes shrews and

A Mole in one

of this, an average heavy infestation will only consist of about eight to ten moles per acre.

Autumn cultivation of farmland forces moles to leave arable land for pasture land, and in doing so they can cover considerable distances over ground. They swim well, so streams present no barrier to

distinctive group of workings. Within each group (which may cover many square yards) it is essential to locate the most recent excavations. In other words, the ones made within the last 24 hours (there will probably be less than half a dozen).

These can be most easily identified by a number of clues such as flattened grass around the mound - on older hills the grass will have had the chance to straighten; loose damp soil bridging the gaps between the blades grass; soil on the mounds will be soft and fine in texture and there will be no evidence of new vegetation growing on the hills. If there is still some doubt, removing some of the soil from the hill will reveal fresh not yellowed grass in recent excavations.

To use phostoxin, a hole should be made, with a probe, through the mole hill at an angle of 30 degrees. The tablet should then be dropped through this hole into the mole run. The hole should then be closed, either by heeling in or by placing a cut turf, grass side down, over the hole and heeled in. This operation should then be repeated at each fresh mound until the entire infested area has been treated.

Within an hour of the tablet being introduced into the mole run, phosphine gas is released and it will continue to evolve for up to 24 hours with maximum concentrations being achieved within six hours. The gas will work its way through the tunnel system, killing any moles in it.

Within 48 hours all traces of phosphine will have disappeared, leaving a small amount of grey, inert powder. This will have no residual effect on the soil, nor will it in any way harm plant life in the treated area.

The greatest problem encountered when attempting to eradicate moles is the risk of reinfestation by neighbouring moles. A vacant mole run is an



Locating and opening a run before treatment

hedgehogs. They nest below ground in an extension to one of their tunnels, always separate from the 'workings'. They produce one litter each year with an average of four young. Young moles leave their nests in July and August and establish their own areas, even re-infesting previously treated runs. They live on average for only about three years and are solitary animals with strong territorial instincts. Because

their movement.

It is important when attempting to control moles with fumigation products to locate the areas in which the moles are 'live' before treatment commences. A large number of mole hills often gives the impression of many moles working in the area, but often there is only one.

A careful examination of the area will soon reveal whether there are more than one



open invitation to other moles, who will soon take residence and perhaps even improve and enlarge the run.

Before carrying out treatment a thorough inspection of the whole area is recommended, paying particular attention to surrounding copses for signs of mole activity and, if found, these areas should also be treated.

The damage caused to golf courses and greens by rabbits grazing and burrowing will be all too familiar. Resistance to myxomatosis, coupled with the fact that weaker strains of the myxoma virus are now replacing the more virulent strains, means that the rabbit has once again become a major pest.

Rabbits breed from January to June, and a female rabbit born early in the year will be capable of producing litters herself in the same year! An adult will rear two to four litters each year, with each litter consisting of three to six young. After three to four

weeks the young will have been weaned and be capable of finding their own food.

Phostoxin is just as effective against rabbits and works in exactly the same way. As with mole control, the best time to control rabbits is from October to February. The rabbit

A Mole in one

population will be at its lowest at this time and burrow entrances will be easier to locate amongst the sparser vegetation.

While it is an offence under the protection of Animals Act 1911 to lay poisoned baits for rabbits, the use of poisonous

gas in rabbit warrens is permitted under the Prevention of Damage by Rabbits Act 1939.

To carry out treatment, a thorough inspection of the site is necessary. Any rabbits lying out should be driven to ground before commencing operations. One phostoxin tablet should then be placed 13 inches into each burrow entrance and the entrance sealed by cutting a turf and placing this, grass side down, over the entrance, and heeling in. Care should be taken to ensure earth does not cover the tablet when sealing the entrance, as this can reduce the rate at which the gas is evolved.

After 48 hours the site should be re-inspected and any burrow entrance that has been reopened should be treated again.

For more information and a free instruction leaflet please write to Peter Barrett at Rentokil Ltd, Felcourt, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 2JY or ring (0342) 833022.

TADMARTON HEATH GOLF CLUB

COURSE MANAGER

required

for this established 18 Hole Heathland Course. Applicants must be fully experienced in all aspects of greenkeeping and automatic irrigation.

A certified Head Greenkeeper and member of BIGGA or IOG

Salary negotiable and will reflect previous experience. No accommodation is available but assistance will be given if required.

Applications should be in writing and include a full C.V. in confidence to:-

**The Secretary,
Tadmarton Heath Golf Club,
Wigginton,
Banbury,
Oxon.
OX15 5HL**

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Wage: approx. £160 inclusive of bonus and in charge rate for a 38 hour, 5 day week.

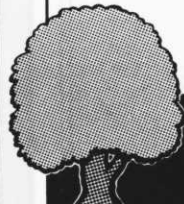
Required at Perivale Golf Course, a busy 9 hole municipal course. You must have experience in all aspects of golf course maintenance and be able to advise on and carry out course development work. You should also have the ability to supervise and motivate up to six staff.

Closing date: 16th December 1987

Ref: 340 CSD (M)

Applications forms obtainable from the Borough Personnel Officer, Ealing Civic Centre, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, London W5 2HL. Tel: 01-840-1995. Please quote appropriate reference.

Ealing's new Council welcomes applications from all regardless of sex, race, ethnic origin, responsibility for dependants, from people with disabilities and from lesbians and gay men.



Ealing