

# Oregon Mole Information

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Oregon Townsend Mole

Oregon moles are mammals that are in the order of Insectivora (insect eaters). They are often confused with being rodents like rats and mice. These animals are gnawing pests, but moles are better known for being burrowing animals. There are four species of moles that can be found throughout the Northwest, including Oregon. They are the townsend's mole, broad-footed mole, coast mole, and the shrew mole. The most common moles found in Northwest Oregon is the townsend's mole which accounts for most of the damage.

Although these moles have a slight difference in size and where you can find them, they have a lot in common. They have body shapes that are round which make it easy for them to move through small tunnels. Also they have large front paws that are made for digging and burrowing through soil. The feet are wide and used as paddles for moving large amounts of dirt. Moles do not have ears on the outside of their body, but instead they use their sensitive snouts to feel with. The snout is also used for finding prey like earth worms or other insects.

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## Oregon Mole Damage



Oregon Mole Damage

Oregon moles will sometimes eat plants or vegetation which can add up to 20 percent of their diet. Damage from this can include garden destruction or crop loss. The main damage from moles is dirt mounds and tunnels. It is very rare to see a mole above ground, but you will see dirt mounds throughout your yard. This is a sign that you have an active mole(s) on your property. Moles are active year round and they constantly create new tunnels. The dirt mounds that you see above ground are from the tunnels that moles dig. When a mole is burrowing a new tunnel or extending an old one it will create a small side tunnel to the surface.

This is how they push the excess dirt to the surface. Moles create different dirt mounds than gophers. Moles will create a round mound because they push the dirt up through the middle. During the colder months moles will dig deeper to find food. The number of dirt mounds does not indicate the amount of moles in the area. An average mole might create 50-100 mounds in a month if they are very active. You can see a dirt mound in the picture above.