

# The Garden Corner

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Master Gardeners of Johnson County Missouri

These cool, wet days are the perfect environment for mole activity in our yards. The female is busily preparing to bring an additional 3 to 5 of the little critters onto the planet. If your property is lined with raised ridges indicating the tunnels the mole uses to feed and you would like to eliminate the cute, furry worm and bug eaters; then, this month's article is for you.

First however, let's consider the beneficial side of all these unsightly trails running all over the place. While some people believe moles are responsible for the destruction of their lawns, bulb beds, and garden plots; this belief couldn't be farther from the truth. By creating the subterranean paths, the mole is actually loosening the clay soil while at the same time feeding on many of the insects that DO damage our gardening activities. Before deciding to eliminate the moles, we might want to consider how much damage we are willing to tolerate. But, if you feel the mole(s) need to go to the "happy hunting ground", there are some things you need to know.

Moles dig two types of tunnels – one deep and the other shallow. The shallow ones are the paths you see in your yard. If you do some research about mole eradication, most experts suggest the use of traps. Believe me when I tell you that this is a waste of time. I have hunted and trapped most of my life and these little critters are some the most elusive creatures living among us! Fortunately there is a product that does work: Tom Cat Mole Bait. Be warned: the earthworm shaped bait is expensive; but, with a little experience you will eliminate moles from your property. When trying to decide where to place the bait, locate a path that is usually pretty straight and fairly long. I call this path/tunnel the "commuter route" – it's the path they use to get to their feeding grounds. Place the bait in the tunnel and say goodbye to your mole(s). Why do I indicate the possibility of more than one mole? On average, there are 2 to 3 moles per acre and more if you live near farm fields or forest.

If you have a specific question about moles; or, any other gardening topic, write to: 370 NW 121 Rd., Warrensburg, MO 64093 or email me at: [maandpak@embarqmail.com](mailto:maandpak@embarqmail.com) and I'll get right back with you. Get out and enjoy this beautiful spring we're experiencing, it only comes once a year!