



J&L Garden Center

The All Season Gift
and Garden Center

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Gopher Problems



Gophers, voles, rats and other rodents are problems every year, especially in the fall. All rodents, including gophers are active all winter. They can do a considerable amount of damage to plants during the winter without gardeners knowing about it - until it is too late.

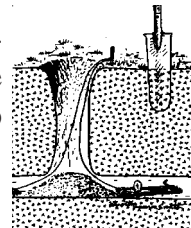
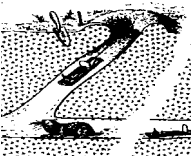
Many rodents live in groups but gophers are solitary animals. They only congregate during the mating season, the rest of the year they tend to live by themselves. *One gopher can burrow up to 800 feet of tunnels, usually 12 to 18 inches below the soil surface.*

Four methods are available to help control gophers.

1. Repellents. Repellants do not get rid of the pest, they just make the gophers go to your neighbor's yard. Two types of gopher repellants are available, one made out of garlic, and the other made out of castor oil.



2. Traps. Several brands of traps are available. Some traps catch the gophers alive and then you can release them somewhere else. The most common gopher traps kill the rodent. If you use a gopher trap be sure to attach a wire to the trap so the gopher doesn't pull the trap away.

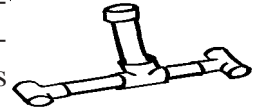


3. Gopher Gasser. Gopher gassers are somewhat effective. As long as the rodent is in the vicinity of ignition, the gas can travel through the tunnels and kill the rodent. If the gopher is out of the tunnel, or if the tunnel is blocked off, the gopher gasser will not be able to kill it. Gophers will back fill a tunnel when they perceive danger thus preventing the gas from reaching them.

4. Poison Bait. Bait seems to be the most effective way to eliminate gopher problems. Two bait products are available, zinc phosphide and strychnine. The biggest problem with bait is putting the bait where the gopher can find it and eat it. You can open the exit hole and put the bait down into the main



tunnel or you can dig a hole down to the main tunnel and put the bait at that point. There is also a special bait probe that makes it easy to put the bait right down into the tunnel, without having to dig through the exit hole. We have also found a bait dispenser, made out of PVC pipe, that seems to work well in attracting gophers, and rats, and providing a perfect place for the rodent to find its last dinner.



None of these methods are 100% foolproof (gopher proof) but with persistence, you can get rid of your gopher pest.

