

Mole



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GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

EASTERN MOLE

Scalopus aquaticus

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 6 -7 1/2 inches long
- ◆ short silky fur, grayish to dark brown
- ◆ large front feet with palms facing outward
- ◆ tiny eyes covered with skin and fur (not visible)
- ◆ long, cone-shaped hairless nose; short, stubby tail



Where To Look

Moles are rarely seen as they spend most of their time in underground tunnels and burrows. They live underground in woods, fields, lawns and gardens. They don't like stony or heavy clay soils.

Tracks and Other Signs

We often see the temporary tunnels in lawns and gardens that moles create as they forage underground for food.



Winter Adaptations

Moles are active year round because they live underground where the temperature stays fairly constant.



What It Eats

Moles eat insects (adults and larvae), earthworms, snails, spiders, and occasionally mice.



Predators and Other Dangers

Eastern moles produce a strong musty odor to deter predators. Snakes, owls, foxes and raccoons will all eat moles when they can catch one.



Did You Know...

Although many gardeners consider moles a nuisance, they are actually helping by aerating and fertilizing the soil with their underground tunneling and defecating. They also eat the grubs of many harmful beetles.