

Mice Fact Sheet

(Field & Meadow Mice and Voles)

These rodents can cause damage to turf. This is especially true in the winter when food supplies are short. Their damage is then noticeable when the winter snow melts and evidence of their activity can be seen. Mice and voles are plant eaters, feeding on seeds, roots, bark and turf. Serious damage can occur in their feeding on the bark of landscape shrubs, especially in the winter months. Under snow cover they will venture out into the lawn, feeding and creating surface runways. Elaborate systems of runways and nesting areas can be developed over a several month period. This damage is usually superficial and should recover in the spring. Rake up the damaged grass, top dress and seed if necessary. From spring to fall their activity is usually restricted total landscape beds, woods and field areas. Their nests are underground with a surface hole or two for entry.

Control can be accomplished with the use of traps and baits. Standard mouse traps with peanut butter mixed with grass seed work well. Place traps along the foundation walls or inside a piece of pvc pipe. Baits work more effectively in the winter when the reserve of food sources are reduced. The bait must be kept dry. You can construct a simple bait box using an aluminum foil baking pan and aluminum foil for the top. Cut out holes at each end for entry. There are some baits on the market that are encased in peanut butter in the shape of a block and are weather proof.