

Moles

North Carolina has three different species of mole: eastern, hairy-tailed, and star-nosed. The star-nosed mole is listed by the state as a Species of Special Concern. Star-nosed moles are aptly named for the 22 rays that surround their nostrils. These moles can be found in soils around wetlands in the mountains and coastal plain.

What is the common damage by moles? Moles can cause turf damage from mole hills around tunnel openings or from surface runways. Moles are primarily carnivores eating grubs, worms, and other insects. Often, moles are blamed for damage to gardens and roots of plants, but this damage is usually caused by voles or other small rodents.

Can a WCA write a depredation permit? Yes, a WCA can write a depredation permit for trapping moles. A depredation permit is not needed if registered pesticides are being used for removal (see lethal options). The star-nosed mole cannot be removed.

Can moles be relocated? Yes, moles can be relocated onto private property with the permission of the landowner.

What can I do with a sick or injured mole? There are licensed [rehabilitators](#) across the state that can help injured or orphaned wildlife. Advise the individual to leave the animal alone for 24 hours to see if it can recover on its own. Alternatively, if the animal is suffering and will not recover, it can be humanely euthanized and disposed of in a safe and sanitary manner.

Are there safety concerns? No, however it is good practice to wear gloves when handling any animal.

Non-lethal Options:

- Education
 - See the [General Considerations for Handling Wildlife](#) document for general ways to prevent conflicts with wildlife.
- Exclusion
 - For small areas, hardware cloth can be used to prevent moles from having access. To be effective, the hardware cloth needs to be buried at least 12 inches into the ground and have a lip bent outward at a 90° angle.

Lethal Options:

- Eastern and hairy-tailed moles are considered pest species and under [GS 113-200.2](#), “it is lawful to use any pesticide registered by the Pesticide Board to control any species of mole other than the Star-Nosed Mole (*Condylura cristata parva*), provided that (i) all rules regulating the application of pesticides adopted by the Pesticide Board are followed and (ii) pesticides used to control these species are applied in a manner that minimizes hazards to nontarget species.”
 - When applying pesticides for moles a depredation permit is not needed.
 - In order to apply pesticides to another individual’s property a pesticide license is required. Licenses are obtained through the [North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#).
 - If applying pesticides, ensure that they are being applied in accordance to the label. Please note that using pesticides in any way other than what is described on the label breaks federal law.
- Moles can be trapped and removed.
 - A depredation permit is needed for trapping moles.