

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
SNOHOMISH COUNTY EXTENSION



THE MOLE-HILL GAZETTE



Occasional writings on managing moles in the genus *Scapanus* By Dave Pehling, WSU Extension
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Finding time to work on solutions to mole problems is difficult but I have had a little time to try a couple new things.

Mole Legislation 2016

This part is short... Nothing has been done. Unless many citizens ask their political representatives to do something, do not expect the law that prohibits use of body-gripping moletraps (which is still the only proven and practical way to consistently control moles) to ever change.

The "Mole Cat"

I wrote about this interesting "trap" in the previous newsletter and have since had a chance to put it to some pretty fair tests.

The device uses a .27 caliber blank rimfire cartridge which is supposed to blast the mole when it pushes against the trigger and, as the package claims, "kill on contact". I assume it is supposed to kill by concussion.



I wonder what keeps the mole from coming from the other direction? I have been using a shovel blade to block the other tunnel in these situations.

I'm starting on my second bag of cartridges and still have not yet found a carcass... and molehills continue to appear so I am not highly impressed with the \$100 toy. There are many positive on-line reviews of this product...but there are for "Juicy-Fruit" gum, too (which I have tried and my moles just walk on it).

Remember that the ONLY way to be sure a mole control product works is to first use a probe to monitor activity and REPEAT your monitoring after the treatment. (For a description on how to use a mole-probe, see the WSU Fact Sheet, "[Mole Management in Washington Backyards](#)")

If you find something legal that works for you more than once, congratulations! While searching the web for reliable reviews on the "Molecat", I only ran across a single instance in which the user of this product wrote that he used an endoscope and actually found a carcass a few feet down the mole tunnel.

For myself, I will use up my second bag of cartridges and continue to monitor with my probe and dig up my lawn looking for expired moles before I conclude that the "MoleCat" is basically useless as a **practical** tool (but a cool toy nonetheless) for controlling our local Townsend's moles. If I have any positive results, I will report back. In the meantime, if anyone has used the "MoleCat" and actually recovered a carcass, please let me know the particulars!



If you want to find out more about the "MoleCat" you can check their website at <http://www.molecat.com/Index.htm>

(Addendum late June 2016 - I'm pretty sure I FINALLY got a mole with this thing...but it did take over 10 cartridges. I had been monitoring very active tunnels in my veggie garden and on the 3rd "shot", the tunneling suddenly stopped. Although it is possible the mole finally got tired of the loud "BANG" and left, I think it is more likely that I got him. The tunnel went directly under the wife's squash garden so I refrained from digging up the tunnel looking for a carcass to keep peace in the family. Maybe next time.....)



Mole-fully yours, dave.....

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