


# MOLE CONTROL

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Summer is here, which means a host of insects are at peak activity, but to long-time Floridians, the summertime sighting of evening mole crickets is a familiar sight. These cousins to the common cricket are nocturnal and may pose a threat to an unprotected lawn.

The mole cricket prefers an underground lifestyle, spending most of its life burrowing through the soil. With their clawed front legs reminiscent of moles, these insects create intricate tunnel systems beneath the surface, damaging your lawn's roots along the way. You may recognize their presence by small piles of dirt or raised tunnels in the turf.



Mole crickets infest lawns, damaging roots as they burrow.

## Tunnel Vision

Because mole crickets fly into lawns from neighboring areas, it's normal to see a few stragglers -- especially at night. In fact, all lawns are likely to have *some* mole crickets at any given time. However, an unprotected lawn is vulnerable to widespread infestation.

Although mole crickets are active year-round in Florida, most adults are present during spring and then again August - October. This is when the greatest damage can be found.

Signs of infestation include small mounds of dirt, small raised tunnels, and areas of dying grass that won't respond to water.



MOLE CRICKETS LEAVE FINGER-WIDTH MOUNDS AND BARE PATCHES. THE GRASS MAY EASILY PULL AWAY DUE TO THE DAMAGED ROOTS.

## Wash-a-Mole

If you're still unsure, there's a simple test you can perform. Just mix a few tablespoons of dishwashing detergent with water and pour the solution over a four-square-foot area of your turf. In just a few minutes, you may spot some mole crickets surfacing for air. If you count three or more emerging from that area, don't hesitate to reach out to Deans, as expert assistance may be necessary.



Of course, if you're using Deans for your lawn care program, our vigilant technicians will keep a lookout for mole cricket activity, and our regular fertilization blend will keep your turf healthy and able to withstand the ferocious appetite of these burrowing insects.



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