

Vernonia Grown

Moles one of problems gardeners face

by Bill Hansen

Moles. Not a problem everywhere, but certainly a real pain in the garden around here. From what I've been able to learn about them, they are not interested in eating plant roots or grain, as their diet consists mainly of insects. They make tunnels just under the surface of the ground and devour insects (including earthworms) which fall into or are attracted to the tunnels. They don't seem to be attracted to poison baits such as wheat or meal. So, the damage they do is a result of burrowing under plants and injuring the plant's root system. Even if the plant survives, it's growth is severely retarded.

In order to cope with the little varmints, people have tried many different methods to discourage

them, including moth crystals, little windmills (to make vibrations in the ground) and flooding the tunnels with water. The only method that has worked for me is to trap them. The best trap I've found is the heavy string type that is placed lengthwise in the tunnel. Although a little difficult at first, by following the directions which come with the trap, you should be successful. Just remember to fill the hole with loose dirt after the trap is set and cover the hold with a board or box to keep children and pets away. If trapping is not your bag, the only other suggestion I have is to find yourself a good cat. We have very little trouble with moles or mice now that we have a good feline "mouser". I have found that females make the best hunters. Males seem to have other things on

their minds. Then, if you get them "fixed" all they want to do is sleep.

If your pepper plants look sort of shriveled and run down, it's probably due to the cool, wet weather. For good growth, nighttime temperature shouldn't drop below 55 degrees. Although they were probably shocked back, they should snap out of it and produce some new leaves when (if?) it warms up. Have faith!

Bicycles on sidewalks illegal, dangerous

Citizens, both young and old, are reminded that riding their bicycles on any city sidewalk at any time is illegal. Due to numerous recent complaints the Vernonia Police Department has been directed by the city council to begin citing offenders in the very near future. Penalties

range from small fines all the way up to loss of the bicycle for repeated complaints and citations against a rider. Remember, not only is riding on

the sidewalk illegal, but highly dangerous to both riders and nearby pedestrians as well.

VHS grads plan picnic

The annual picnic of the Vernonia Society and VHS "Old Grads" will be held at Anderson Park, Vernonia, Oregon, August 16, 1981.

Please come and bring your friends. All former Vernonia people and families are invited.

Bring your own picnic lunch. Coffee and cups will be provided. Registration starts at 10 am.

In case of rain, the event will be held in the Washington Grade School cafeteria.



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