

grass that certain types of men favor in their lawns. This guide is not going to teach you how to trap moles, because there are simply not good live traps for moles, and who am I to go getting moles killed like that? I have enough problems at my house what with the gutters needing replacement and the infernal elm trees attacking the foundation. If a family of moles moved into my yard I'd be thankful for the soil aeration and tilling effect of their burrowing movements. At least it would give us more to discuss than how much I'm eating or unhappy she is in the bedroom. Moreover, I'd consider myself lucky



STAR-NOSED MOLES!

These bizarre creatures live in vast writhing colonies just below the surface of wet lowlands in the northeastern U.S., look like something out of Lovecraft, and can snare and kill their food in 230 milliseconds. I may be exaggerating the size of their colonies, but that last bit has actually happened—"Nature" magazine recently declared them the fastest-eating mammal. Star-nosed moles!



MOLEHILLS are often the only way to know that you have a mole labour laboring beneath your lawn. You can identify a molehill by looking for a heap of excavated soil.

They aren't that big, which is why wise people speak peremptorily against making mountains out of them, but they can make a problem for lawn-mowers and should be leveled. Use the dirt you pull off the molehill to fill in any tunnels that disrupt the level surface of your lawn that's so pristine it's clear that you are capable of paying attention to little details like what a woman desires and needs and you aren't afraid to express aesthetic appreciation.

MOLES ARE NOT BLIND like I guess I was to the obvious signs she put out about her dissatisfaction and anxiety but they do have tiny eyes and poor eyesight. Their ears are just openings hidden in their fur. They have sensitive snouts, covered in little pimples. I wouldn't touch it or mock them for it, however, like a gaggle of surly teenagers ruining the adolescence of an innocent boy whose oily skin couldn't be helped, any more than his overeating, as moles have very sharp canine teeth suitable for punching through insects. Like a gerbil, the kind your big sister kept and said it was safe to pick up but the thing was utterly panicked and when your hand got near it those vicious blocks of enamel cut into your flesh in an instant, reducing you to a slobbering mess of tears and humiliation? A mole's teeth would be worse than that. Mole fur is very fine and velvety; the hairs move in any direction with ease, allowing moles to change orientation and run backwards through their tunnels or sensually rub against each other like people who both should be home with their spouses and kids and over-mortgaged lousy renovation projects and a lawn full of piles of damn dirt, instead of trysting about practicing different positions and giving each other the attention you withhold from your family to satisfy your base urges.

PROBABLY THE BEST LOVED MOLE IS MR. MOLE from Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*, which is a delightful children's book suitable for all ages. Nothing could ever make me or the children feel quite right again, but an evening spent reading the adventures of Moley and Ratty whilst they face the modern era in an idealized England will soothe them for a little while, even if read through a veil of hazy tears.

GET TO KNOW MOLES:

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MOLES are burrowing mammals that eat insects and worms and live underground. There are even aquatic moles! They have a body that reminds people of a small dachshund or maybe an otter in shape and color, only with more teeth and a tendency to look less cute and more unsettling.

If you have a bunch of moles together, it's called a "labour" of moles which is almost as cool a thing as a "murder" of crows or a "pod" of whales, but with the added advantage of a Brittanica spelling convention. Male moles are "boars" and females are "sows," which I wouldn't presume to call anyone.

Adult moles can have up to 44 teeth, which is a lot for a mammal. Moles are really accomplished diggers and sometimes when they get going they'll dig all around under a tree's roots and cause it to fall over.

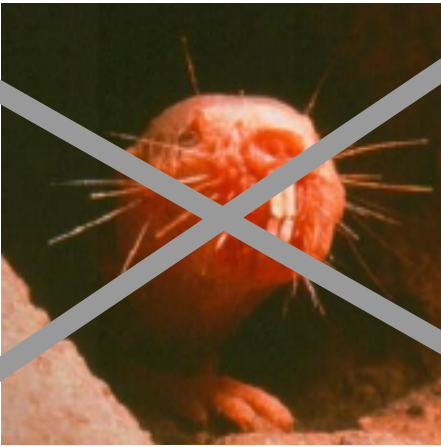
Actually that's never happened.

What has happened is that moles burrow very thoroughly, and people who have them in their lawns get irritated because they disrupt the pristine green carpet of weak, alien sod



GET MOLES TO KNOW

Things which are NOT moles described in this pamphlet: a pictorial guide



Naked mole rat



Television program



Skin moles
(Latin: *nevus*, pl. *nevi*)

Sarah Michelle Gellar
pictured



Molé sauce
(pronounced moe-lay)
pollo en mole pictured

