

Purdue Extension-Marion County - Common Garden Questions (October 2006)

Q. Is there another way to effectively control moles besides trapping?

A. Trapping is still the number one method for effective mole control. However, there is another method worth trying for people who do not want to use traps. Mole toxicants have been available for a long time but they usually provided poor control. However, some new mole toxicants introduced in recent years show more promising results. Perhaps the best mole toxicants to try are the products that contain worm-shaped baits containing Bromethalin. If you use them, follow label directions carefully to make sure non-target animals are not injured or killed.

There are three registered products for moles in the Indiana pesticide database (<http://www.kellysolutions.com/in/>) with Bromethalin as the active ingredient (a.i.):

1. *Talpirid Mole Bait (Ready to Use); Active Ingredient: 0.025 Bromethalin; Company: Bell Laboratories; Website:*<http://www.belllabs.com/talpirid/> *Source: Normally available through professional suppliers but has been sold at the Indiana Flower and Patio Show in recent years. This product has been sold as 20 worm-shaped baits per package.*
2. *Motomco Mole Killer; Active Ingredient: 0.025 Bromethalin; Company: Motomco; Website:*http://www.motomco.com/h_molekiller.htm *Source: Website says it is "available at select farm, home and agricultural retail stores throughout the United States." Various online company websites offer this for sale as 8 worm-shaped baits per package.*
3. *Tomcat Mole Killer; Active Ingredient: 0.025 Bromethalin; Company: Motomco; Website:*<http://www.tomcatbrand.com/molekiller/molekiller.html> *Source: Website says it is available at Lowe's, Menards, Meijer, The Home Depot and True Value Hardware. The product has been sold as 6 worm-shaped baits per package.*

Cost of the above products varied from \$2.00 to over \$3.00 per worm bait in 2006.

Purdue has begun testing the Bromethalin mole toxicant using the Talpirid product. Initial results suggest that control was very good when applied correctly but not 100 percent. Some experiences from local Master Gardeners also indicate good results. The two homeowner products have the same concentration of active ingredient and same method of application, but I do not know if the attractant in the bait is identical or not. If you use any of the Bromethalin products, let me know how they work for you. Purdue wildlife damage specialists suggest that all of the registered mole toxicants will have their best potential for control during the winter months when insect populations are at their lowest levels. The problem of not having a dead mole to prove that the product worked could be a challenge for some professional mole controllers.

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