

10 FARMING TIPS POCKET GOPHERS



- ✦ **There are two sides to pocket gophers.** Burrows can increase soil aeration and water infiltration, but can also harm crops and divert water.
- ✦ **Learn to recognize gopher mounds.** Look for a fan-shaped mound with a plugged opening on one side. Gophers rarely go above ground.
- ✦ **Monitor gopher food sources.** Gophers may eat plant roots or venture out a short distance to feed on above-ground plant parts.
- ✦ **Support pocket gopher predators.** Barn owls can consume many gophers while brooding. Other predators include snakes and weasels.
- ✦ **Use fencing to exclude pocket gophers from high-value plants.** Fences should be at least 15 inches high and buried 18-24 inches deep.
- ✦ **Rotate between alfalfa and a water-wise grain crop.** Grains don't provide enough food to maintain gopher populations.
- ✦ **Don't be fooled by gopher 'repellents'.** Repellents including chemicals and sound devices are not effective against pocket gophers.
- ✦ **Trap during the growing season: spring through fall.** Most mound building occurs in association with peak growing season.
- ✦ **Set traps in mounds or main tunnels.** 'How to Trap Pocket Gophers' by Sam Smallidge (Guide L-117) explains both methods in more detail.
- ✦ **Always follow the label if applying pesticides.** Gopher toxicants can be hazardous to people and animals. Remember, the label is the law!