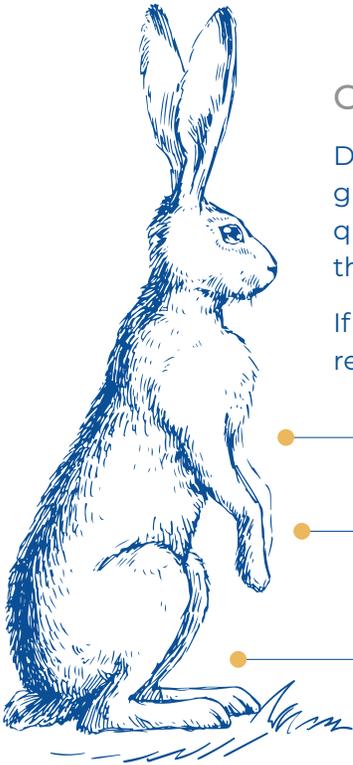


TREATING BUGS IN YOUR SOIL

If you notice dead patches or spongy areas in your lawn, you may have an invasive insect problem. The four main culprits in Colorado are billbugs, white grubs, mites and chinchbugs.

To prevent these insects from damaging your lawn, the most important thing you can do is keep it healthy and well-watered.

- A 1% soap concentrate spray works well on bugs such as mites, aphids, mealybugs, white flies, soft scales and thrips. Use pure water and liquid dish soap when mixing your soap solution but avoid using soaps with degreasers or anti-bacterial agents. Add soap and water to a spray bottle and spray over the affected areas to help deter bugs.



GETTING RID OF RABBITS, NATURALLY

Did you know that, similar to dogs, rabbits have highly acidic urine that can kill your grass? A family of rabbits can cause widespread damage to your yard and with their quick rate of reproduction (wild rabbits have been known to have up to 50 kits a year!), this can become a huge issue for homeowners looking to keep their lawn in good shape.

If you're seeing urine burn in your grass, there are a couple things you can do after reseeding the damaged areas to keep rabbits from returning.

- **Red pepper** – Rabbits hate spicy food, so red pepper flakes can be sprinkled on the affected area to keep them from coming back.
- **Irish Spring soap** – Fill small drawstring bags of Irish Spring soap shavings and hang them around your garden, or near the grassy areas where the rabbits have been munching.
- **Chicken wire fence** – Plant the fence six inches into the ground to deter burrowing under, and make sure it's at least two feet high.

REMOVING VOLES

Voles are small mammals that cause damage by girdling seedling and mature trees in orchards, shelterbelts and forests. They also damage field crops and frequently construct runways in lawns. They seem to create the most damage in Colorado landscaping after years of heavy snowfall. To treat this problem, there are a few options:

- To protect trees and shrubs, wire or plastic-mesh cylinders deter voles. The barriers should project 18 inches above ground and 3 to 6 inches below the surface.
- Voles can be trapped using mouse snap traps – traps baited with peanut butter and rolled oats or apples work well.