

# GOPHER CONTROL WITH CINCH TRAPS

## TUNNEL INFORMATION

Gophers are active throughout the year and fresh workings may be found in any month. A gopher will dig up to 7 or 8 tunnels which may extend as much as 800 feet each. Most of the tunneling activity can be seen during the fall. Burrows vary from 2 to 3 inches in diameter. These are mostly parallel to the ground surface, usually at depths of from 6 to 12 inches, with secondary tunnels down 24 to 30 inches. New activity sometimes is not visible above ground, because the gopher is very capable of backfilling tunnels that are no longer needed. By fall, one gopher will have accumulated seven or eight storage rooms packed with tubers, and roots. Because of its subterranean nature and the sometimes limited amount of surface sign, the damage caused by this animal often goes unnoticed.

## GOPHER IDENTIFICATION

Named for external fur-lined cheek pouches for carrying vegetative matter, also a burrowing animal with soft and glossy body hair, inconspicuous ears, with large upper and lower incisors, they vary by species in size from 6" - 13". Excavated crescent shaped mounds produced while tunneling for succulent portions of plants. Active year round, solitary and defensive. Can control territory up to 2000 square feet.

## REPRODUCTION & LIFE CYCLE

On an average, the female will have 1 or 2 broods a year with 5 or 6 young, but more often, larger broods if survival conditions are good and local gopher population is down. On pasture lands and on uncultivated and non-irrigated areas there is evidently a limited breeding season, some time after the beginning of the spring rains, when green forage becomes available in quantity. On such areas there is probably a single, annual brood. In irrigated regions, especially in alfalfa fields where green forage is always available, breeding occurs throughout the year. In such places, a female may bear up to 4 litters per year, and as high as 13 young per litter.



**DEALER NAME:**

## EATING HABITS

The gopher is an underground dweller, only occasionally coming above ground at night to feed or migrate. He has external cheek pouches in which food is carried. Gophers cut roots of trees and vines and gnaw the bark of trees, at times completely encircling them so that they die. The gopher cuts the roots of plants beneath the surface, then pulls the rest of the plant into the burrow. They can consume and destroy large amounts of vegetation.

## CINCH TRAP PLACEMENT

Dig away dirt on top of gopher's mound to expose hole. Insert the trap as shown in the sketch, making sure that the jaws of the trap fit snug against the wall of the hole by twisting back and forth. Leave the hole open to encourage the gopher to investigate a change in his tunnel system. The gopher comes between the jaws and activates the trigger mechanism and the powerful steel spring closes the jaws shut around the gopher's middle with instantaneous effectiveness. Remove the trap, release and dispose of carcass. Check the area for other activity and reset your trap.

