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EC1544 Pocket Gopher Control

O. S. Bare

C. A. Sooter

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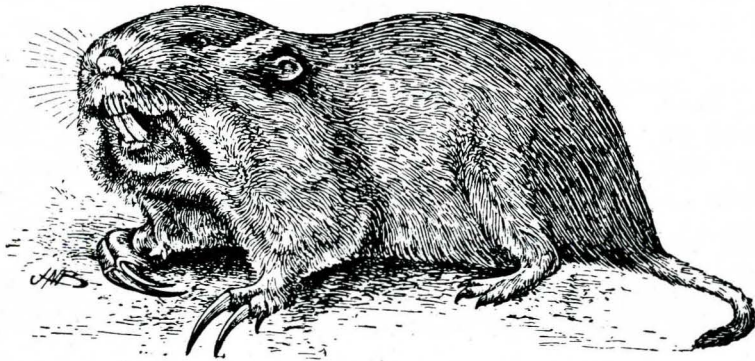
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Pocket Gopher Control



THE PRAIRIE POCKET GOPHER(After Lantz.)

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics
University of Nebraska College of Agriculture, and the United States
Department of Agriculture cooperating.

POCKET GOPHER CONTROL

O. S. Bare, and C. A. Sooter, Extension Entomologists

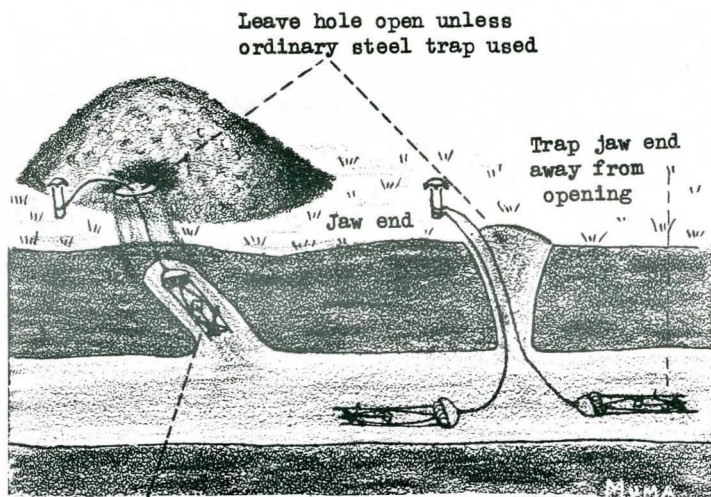
Poison Them

The poison may be purchased ready-mixed in sifertop boxes or your druggist can put it up for you. It is composed of:

1/8 ounce sodium bicarbonate
1/8 ounce powd. strychnine, alkaloid
1/80 ounce saccharine

This is enough for a gallon of bait. It is dusted on pieces of potatoes or carrots that have been cut into pieces $1/3$ inch square and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. (Don't use too much poison on the baits — each piece should be well covered lightly).

Poisoned oats or wheat such as used for prairie dogs and field mice also is good pocket gopher bait.



Manner of setting when only 1 trap used

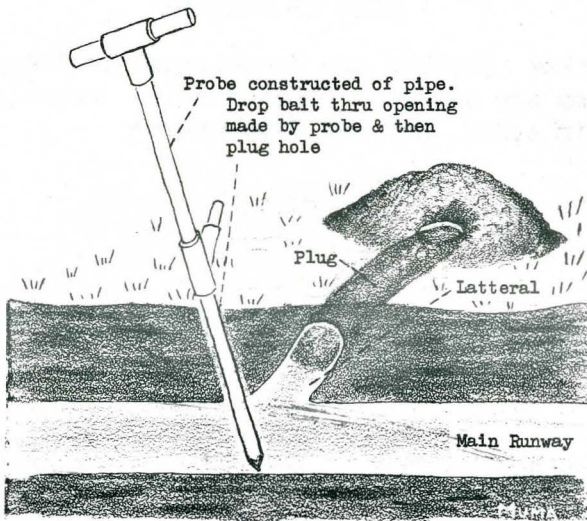
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service prepared rodent grain baits are very good. Information on costs and where to order this can be obtained from your county agent.

Locate the Runways

Locate the main runway with a probe, such as a sharpened endgate rod, sharpened broom stick, one made of sharpened $\frac{1}{2}$ inch smooth iron rod about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet long with T handle for forcing into ground, or corn planter anchor stake. The runway is from 6 to 12 inches away from the flat side of the mound nearest to the "plug". It may be from 6 to 12 inches below the surface. When the runway is found, the probe will drop suddenly about 2 inches and it can be rotated easily.

Applying the Bait

As soon as the runway is located, rotate probe to enlarge the opening enough to insert two or three pieces of the poison vegetable or a tablespoonful of



poison grain. Then stuff grass in the opening and cover with dirt. The last thing is to level the mounds so that fresh work by gophers missed in poisoning can be located and runways treated.

Trap Them

While poisoning pocket gophers is preferred because of its economy and ease, it may be difficult to kill all of them in this manner. Then the best way is to trap the few that remain. Special gopher traps (Maccabee, Cinch, Death Clutch, etc.) are much more efficient than ordinary steel traps.

Setting the Traps

First dig out the "plug" to the main runway and insert the set trap, jaw end first. If these traps are used place one in the main runway on each side of the opening just out of sight. Tie a wire on each and fasten to a stake pushed in the ground. If one trap is used place it in the lateral just outside of the main runway. In all cases, leave the burrow open.

Time to Control

Pocket gophers may be poisoned or trapped whenever they are active. Best results usually are obtained in April, May and October.