

## Voles

North Carolina has three different species of voles: meadow, pine, and southern rock. The southern rock vole is listed by the State as a Species of Special Concern. Southern rock voles occur at elevations higher than 3,800 feet and are only found in a few western counties. Pine and meadow voles have been declared pest species by the North Carolina Pesticide Board. Registered pesticides can be used to remove pine and meadow voles.

**What is the common damage by voles?** Voles can damage vineyards, ornamental plants, and young trees by girdling stems or by chewing around the root crown. They can also cause lawn and turf damage from their runways which are most noticeable after snow melt. While meadow voles construct their runways above ground, pine voles will build extensive runways underground.

**Can a WCA write a depredation permit?** Yes, a WCA can write a depredation permit to trap voles. A depredation permit is not needed if registered pesticides are being used for removal.

**Can voles be relocated?** Yes, voles can be relocated onto private property with the permission of the landowner.

**What can I do with a sick or injured vole?** There are licensed [rehabilitators](#) across the state that can help injured or orphaned wildlife. Advise the individual to leave the animal alone for 24 hours to see if it can recover on its own.

**Are there safety concerns?** No, however it is good practice to wear gloves when handling any animal.

### Non-lethal options:

- Education
  - See the [General Considerations for Handling Wildlife](#) document for general ways to prevent conflicts with wildlife.
- Exclusion
  - Fine mesh (¼" or less) chicken wire or hardware cloth can be wrapped around trees and plants to prevent voles from having access. Bury the wire or hardware cloth 6-8" in the ground to prevent the voles from burrowing underneath.
- Voles can be trapped and relocated onto private land with the permission of the landowner.
  - A depredation permit is needed for trapping voles

### Lethal options:

- Pine and meadow voles were declared pest species by the North Carolina Pesticide Board, so there are registered rodenticides that can be used to remove voles.
  - To apply pesticides to another individual's property a [pesticide license](#) is required. These licenses are obtained through the [North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#).
  - Ensure that pesticides are being applied in accordance to the label as it is against Federal law to use pesticides in any way that is not described on the label.
  - If using a registered pesticide, a depredation permit does not need to be written.
- Voles can be trapped and humanely euthanized.
  - A depredation permit is needed to trap voles.