



Vole Damage Repair

For those who have discovered vole damage now that the snow has melted and are wondering...
'What happened to my lawn?!!

Unfortunately, this past winter has been nearly perfect for voles due to the heavy, long lingering snow cover. These conditions have allowed the voles to go pretty much undetected and wreak havoc on lawns in Winnipeg and surrounding areas.

What is a vole?

A vole is a small rodent resembling a field mouse.



What does vole damage look like?

At first your lawn may look like it's completely destroyed. It can have a 'cracked' appearance and areas that are bare. Depending on the severity of the damage, there are a few options for you to choose from. The good news is, with a Kentucky BlueGrass lawn, much of the vole damage can usually be fixed. With a bit of effort and help from you, your lawn can recover. Dormant grass blades are usually the most damaged, not the crowns or roots of the grass. Before taking any drastic steps like tearing up your lawn and replacing it, we recommend following the steps given below to help your lawn recover for the summer season.

How to help prevent vole damage: Mow your lawn in the fall. Voles are especially attracted to longer lawn grass as it provides the cover they need combined with the snow coverage.

How to Repair the Damage

Steps to take:

When weather and lawn conditions allow:

Caution: Attempting repairs too soon, when the ground is too wet can cause further damage



1 - We recommend using a Fan/Leaf Rake **when the grass is dry**, to lightly rake the loose grass out & remove it. **Do not rake vigorously - roots are tender now.

We do not suggest using a power rake on young lawns, as it is usually too aggressive and will only cause further damage.

2 - Add a light layer of topsoil to help fill in and level the bare patches and channels/tunnels the voles have made. The topsoil will also help protect the tender new shoots from the elements.

The new grass blades should fill in once spring growth begins and damage should disappear.

Kentucky BlueGrass spreads and fills in by rhizomes (under the soil) which is why it's considered self-healing from most light to medium damage. If you choose to seed the spots, add some good quality Kentucky BlueGrass seed to help fill in the areas. Seeding can be done once soil is warmed to 13-14°C.

If you require seed contact us. If damage is extremely severe and the grass is simply not returning, sod may be the better option to fix the damaged areas. Call us for a sod quote for DIY or get an estimate on our crew renovating your lawn.

If you have any questions not answered here, please call us and we'd be happy to help you.