



## SQUIRRELS/CHIPMUNKS

Squirrels and chipmunks can wreak all sorts of havoc in the yard and garden, eating bark, buds, fruit and nuts, littering the area with twigs, digging up bulbs and plants, and, in the case of chipmunks, tunneling through the yard and flowerbeds.

### Controls

Due to their large populations, these rodents are difficult to control. Chipmunks can sometimes be encouraged to leave by flooding their burrows with the garden hose.

Try the following exclusion methods: Place chicken wire or screening over new plantings to allow them to get off to a good start. Bulbs can also be caged this way when planting. (Make sure the mesh is large enough to allow the bulb's foliage to penetrate it.) Protect ears of corn by covering them with a paper bag after the tassels have turned brown.

Repellants are sometimes effective, either commercial or homemade, but these must be reapplied periodically as they are dissipated by rain. (See separate sheet for a list of homemade animal repellants.) The organic fertilizer, Milorganite, cultivated into the soil around the base of plantings, is said to repel rodents, and it has the added benefit of feeding the planting at the same time. Ultrasonic noise devices can be effective for limited areas. Dogs or cats can be helpful, as well. Sometimes just scattering their hair about the area or hanging it in bags around the garden has a deterrent effect.