

KC64 SCISSORS MOLE TRAP

The scissors mole trap, also known as the pincer mole trap is a tried and tested break-back trap for the control of Moles (*Talpa europaea*). It is capable of catching the mole from either side of the trap. The upper section can be seen above ground, allowing easy detection of a catch.

SETTING THE TRAP

- Holding the trap, allow the trigger or 'tongue' to hang freely.
- Squeeze the handles of the trap together, thus opening the jaws.
- Gently locate the shoulders of the tongue inside the horizontal bars of the jaws.
- Release your grip slowly, ensuring that the tongue stays hooked onto the jaws. The trap is now set. Be careful not to trigger the release action of the trap, as this can have painful consequences!
- When the trap is set, hold it by the handles only.

LAYING THE TRAP

- Locate the mole's tunnel with a mole bar or pointed stout stick. The tunnel is usually in between two mole hills. Probe the ground with the stick until it 'gives' slightly – several attempts may be necessary. Do not set the trap in a mole hill.
- Carefully dig out a section of earth to expose the tunnel, and lay the trap in line with the 'run'. It may be necessary to clear the tunnel mouth each side of the hole.
- Remove any loose earth that could interfere with the trap's action.

- Gently re-fill the hole with the excavated earth, but do not firm it down. Try and ensure that the run does not get filled with soil again placing upside down turfs in the hole before the soil is replaced will often help. Care must be taken to exclude light from the tunnel as this will deter the mole.
- Allow the upper sections of the jaws to protrude through the soil. This allows the jaws to close and allows you to see if the trap has been sprung.
- Check trap daily.

"TIPS OF THE TRADE"

Moles have a keen sense of smell, and so can defeat human interference with their habitat. When the traps are new, leave them outside for a few days to 'weather'. When setting the traps, rub a little soil onto your fingers to mask any human odours that may deter the mole.

