

Adequate soil moisture is necessary for the machine to operate properly. The first step is to determine the average depth of pocket gopher runways in the field to be treated. The torpedo is then set at this depth and a series of burrows is "plowed" across the field at a spacing of 20 to 30 feet. Pocket gophers are attracted to the freshly disturbed soil in the artificial runway and normally will use it long enough to find some of the poisoned bait.

Results have been highly effective. Up to 75 acres per day can be treated by one machine with control running as high as 97 percent of the gophers present. A desirable feature is the safety of having the bait underground where it cannot be picked up by domestic livestock or valuable kinds of wildlife.

At least three farm implement companies have started marketing burrow builders at prices ranging from \$300 to \$450. The machine is not difficult to make, however, and many farmers are building their own.

The Fish and Wildlife Service cautions that care should be used in fashioning a burrow builder because a poorly constructed machine will generally give poor results and create hazards to livestock and beneficial wildlife.

A Fish and Wildlife Service publication "Special Scientific Report--Wildlife No. 47," explains the details of operation and construction. Copies of the publication are available from the Office of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.

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