

Management

Keeping areas clean and free of debris, in a house or yard setting, discourages mice activity. Close off and seal cracks in building foundations and use mesh or steel wool around openings such as dryer vents. Mothballs (naphthalene) may be used as an odour deterrent in some confined spaces. Store pet food and birdseed in sealed containers. Keep boxes away from the wall in storage rooms to discourage mice from hiding behind them.

Natural predators of mice include coyote, foxes, weasel, hawks, owls and snakes. Some domestic dogs and cats will prey on them as well.

Different toxicants and trapping devices are available for public use and may be purchased at hardware stores or farm supply outlets. Please follow product label instructions.

Mice populations expand very quickly, so control measures should be used if an infestation is suspected.

Further Information

Transportation and Agriculture Services
780-417-7100
www.strathcona.ca/pests

Office hours:
Monday to Friday
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Closed from 12 noon to 1 pm
and on statutory holidays



Mice

Living with wildlife
in Strathcona County



House mouse

White-footed mouse or deer mouse

Field mouse



Appearance

House mouse

The house mouse arrived with settlers to North America and is a very adaptive species. They are greyish-brown in colour and approximately 65 - 95 mm in length. They tend to be petite fast-moving rodents with a pointed nose and larger ears. House mice tend to live where settlement and agriculture exist and may give infested premises a distinct rodent smell.

White-footed mouse or deer mouse

White-footed mice or deer mice are native species. They are distinctly marked with a greyish or brown topside and white or light coloured underside. The lighter underside of the tail separates it in appearance from the house mouse. They are approximately 50 - 90 mm in length and have large eyes and ears, hence the deer mouse title.

Field mouse (meadow vole)

The field mouse or meadow vole is a small compact native rodent with short legs, tail and a blunt-looking head. It has very small eyes and ears, and the ears are close to its head. It is the darkest coloured mouse and tends to live in more open field areas.

Behaviour

Deer and house mice are very agile, climbing about and under structures looking for food and places to inhabit. They tend to chew, causing physical damage, as well as contaminate the areas they investigate with urine and feces.

Deer mice are associated with the Hanta virus so caution must be used when handling them and disinfecting where they have inhabited.

Field mice may damage young trees by girdling the bark and may eat shoots and stems of newly planted gardens. They create grass tunnels on lawns and nibble on raspberry canes.

Mice usually have a litter of about five young. Their gestation period is 21 - 23 days. Some house mice have up to 10 litters in an ideal indoor setting. The deer and field mice may have several litters if habitat is available. Mice usually make a ball-shaped nest, comprised of shredded grass, paper or household material.