

Chipmunk Control

Willie Chance

Houston County Extension Agent

(478) 987-2028 wchance@uga.edu

What can I do about chipmunks? Chipmunks are cute but they can be aggravating. The common chipmunk is not much like the Chip and Dale that our kids see on television.

Chipmunks do not generally eat plants, but they do tunnel quite a bit. From what I have heard, they can tunnel under buildings and over time settle the foundation.

Try to live with them if you can. If they become too numerous, you can trap them. Use a rat trap. This is just a larger version of the mouse trap. Be careful. If you get your finger snapped by a mouse trap, it will hurt. If you get caught by a rat trap, you may suffer permanent injury.

Bait the trap with a pecan meat or a small ball of peanut butter mixed with oatmeal. To keep birds out of the trap, make a two-sided tent out of two boards. Lean the boards together so that they make a roof over the trap. Secure the boards so they will not fall.

You could instead cover the trap with a box. Put the trap close to their hole. Put the box upside down covering the trap and the hole. Cut holes in the box where it touches the ground so that chipmunks can get in and out. If the trap does not work with the box, try it without but remember that dogs, birds and other animals can be attracted to these traps.

Once you trap a chipmunk, seal the hole with dirt and see if the chipmunks re-open it. If they do, you need to continue to trap chipmunks. Sometimes a hungry cat can be an ally in depleting the chipmunk population.

For more information see - <http://icwdm.org/handbook/index.asp>