

# VOLES

- Meadow vole & Prairie vole resemble the common mouse with a short tail
- Under ideal conditions, voles reproduce from March – October
- Females produce litters of 3-8 every 3 weeks; females mature in 5 weeks
- Life span – up to 16 months
- Populations peak every 2-3 years
- Active both day and night
- Resourceful feeders – seeds & vegetation (forage & roots)
- Damage usually occurs 3-4 weeks after cash crop planting
- Larger crop reductions = over 30 voles/acre
- Network of runways – colonies and feeding areas can be as large as ¼ acre
- 4-5 colonies within close proximity probably warrants some level of rescue treatment



# SLUGS

- Gray garden slug most common
- “Snails w/o shells” – legless critters w/4 front tentacles; slime trail secreted as they travel
- Hermaphrodites, but they usually mate to reproduce
- Mating and development is not synchronized
- Slugs can overwinter big or small, except in extreme cold
- GGS – most eggs hatch in spring; juveniles from spring grow through summer; mate & lay eggs in the fall (100’s eggs)
- Juvenile slugs begin feeding 1-2 weeks after hatching
- Nocturnal only, feeding on many different BL & grasses
- Feed on seeds, seedlings and leaves of young plants; but also fungi, residue, each other and other invertebrates
- Can also vector plant viruses and disease
- Thresholds are hard to pinpoint, defoliation is key
  - Corn – defoliation; later planting can result in flag leaf feeding
  - Soybeans
    - early planting = feeding noticed on unifoliate leaves
    - later planting = feeding on cotyledons and growing point



## SCOUTING

VOLES – Check fields in late winter for active vole colonies (especially in areas with more residue and/or snow cover). Keep monitoring at least until 30 days before planting no-till corn or soybeans.

SLUGS – Check fields in April/May (eggs or adults).... eggs are about half the size of a BB; defoliation should alert one of damage. Monitor at dusk or after dark, also after rain events.