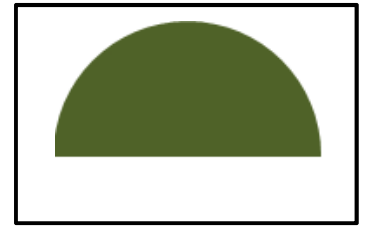


# GOPHER TORTOISE BURROW IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Gopher tortoise burrows are often confused with armadillo or other mammalian species burrows. Active gopher tortoise burrows are easily identified by their classic flat bottomed, high domed appearance and characteristic area of excavated soil in front of the opening called the apron. Tortoise burrows gently slope down, whereas mammal burrows usually slope straight down. Tortoise burrows are usually proportionate to the size of individual occupying the burrow. Safety Note: NEVER stick your hand in a burrow; use a stick as you do not know what may be in the burrow.



Abandoned burrow. Note that it still has classic shape, gently slopes and remnants of an apron.



Active burrow. Typical shape, gently slopes and presence of an apron.



When inspecting apron, note tortoise foot prints and or scat at mouth of burrow to further confirm that it is indeed a tortoise burrow. Scat resembles small dried cigars and you can easily identify the digested grass component.



Active burrow in gravel soil. Typical shape, gently slopes and presence of an apron.



Active burrow in food plot. Typical shape, gently slopes and presence of an apron.



Active burrow. Typical shape, gently slopes and presence of an apron.



Abandoned burrow. Note that it still has classic shape, gently slopes and remnants of an apron.



Eggs in apron of active burrow. Typical shape, gently slopes and presence of an apron.

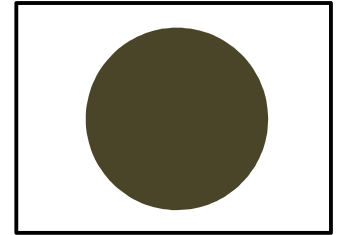


Sub adult burrow after a burn. Typical shape, gently slopes and presence of an apron.



# MAMMAL BURROW IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Mammal burrow openings are usually round in appearance. Gopher tortoise burrows are often used by mammal species, changing the flat bottom, high dome opening to a round shape. Mammal burrows or dens may have soil build up around entrance, resembling the apron of a gopher tortoise burrow. Often mammals dig burrows in stump holes, under tree roots, sides of a hill or dirt bank. Mouse holes often resemble immature gopher tortoise burrows however, these holes are mostly round in shape. Safety Note: NEVER stick your hand in a burrow; use a stick as you do not know what may be in the burrow.



Ericha Nix  
Crayfish Burrow. Looks like a chimney and burrow goes straight down.



<https://www.fillystar.com/story/life/home-garden/2014/07/19/di-dirt-mousetrap-works-best-eliminate-voles/12768259/>  
Vole or Field Mouse Burrow (1-2 in.). No apron and burrow goes straight down.



NRCS  
Oldfield Mouse Burrow (1-2 in.). Looks like an apron but burrow goes straight down.



NRCS  
Oldfield Mouse Burrow (1-2 in.). Looks like an apron but burrow goes straight down.



NRCS  
Coyote Den (No apron). Burrow in the side of a hill.



Armadillo Burrow (round and does look like it has an apron). Burrow in the side of a bank.



Charlie Bittner  
Armadillo Burrow (No apron though one could mistake the soil around entrance as one. Note shape of animal... oval to circular as it creates burrow).



[www.sharonlovejoy.com](http://www.sharonlovejoy.com)  
Fox Den (No apron). Burrow in the side of a hill.



[southeasternpocketgopher.weebly.com](http://southeasternpocketgopher.weebly.com)  
Southeastern Pocket Gopher Mounds Found in the same habitat as gopher tortoise. Mound semi-close together.