

Richardson's ground squirrel control

Lethal controls timing

Optimum time for lethal controls

Timing is critical for achieving long-term reductions in Richardson's ground squirrel populations using lethal methods. The most effective time to implement control is in early spring, just before vegetation begins to green up. Avoid baiting at the very first signs of activity, as adult males typically emerge from hibernation two weeks before the females, reducing baiting efficiency. The graph below illustrates the optimal window for applying lethal control measures.

Figure 1: The months in yellow represent Richardson's ground squirrel activity above ground. The red outline indicates the optimum time for physical and chemical control.

RGS	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Adult Males	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Adult Females	Light Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Juvenile Males	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Juvenile Females	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Light Blue	Light Blue