



## **RABBIT**

Rabbits tend to be largely regarded as an agricultural pest where established populations can result in significant financial loss due to crop damage. It is estimated that 10 rabbits will consume approximately the same amount of crops as a single sheep.

An established population of 100 rabbits on a farmers land would therefore be the equivalent of permitting 10 sheep to roam unchecked and feeding on his crops. No wonder that farmers do not generally regard rabbits as a welcome sight!

Other locations where rabbits can be particularly problematic are equestrian centres, golf courses, gardens, young woodland plantations or allotments.

In gardens, plantations and allotments the young shoots of emerging plants can quickly fall prey to a population of rabbits, never to recover.

Occasionally it is their burrowing which causes as much concern as the grazing itself. This is particularly so at equestrian centres or golf courses.

Although rabbits generally establish their burrows close to the edges of fields or under cover these can sometimes extend into the paddock itself, resulting in holes deep enough for a horse to trip and harm itself.

On golf courses, the golfers normally enjoy creating the divots themselves and certainly do not welcome seeing them on the greens!