

House Mouse

This Asian transplant arrived in the US in the 16th century on the ships of explorers, traders, and colonists. This ubiquitous critter does self-regulate to a point; when the population becomes too dense in one area, the females become infertile. Although they can reach plague portions, they can be beneficial in fields where they eat weed seeds. Foxtail-type grasses are their favorite seeds. They will also eat caterpillars and other insects. Their scientific name, *musha*, is Sanskrit for "thief." Although House Mice are known for spreading disease, centuries ago they were used in folk remedies for colds, coughs, fits, and fevers.