

Have you heard of jumping worms?

Jumping worms are spreading in Minnesota and they pose a serious threat to gardens, yards, and native ecosystems.

You can help by learning about jumping worms and preventing their spread.

- The nursery and landscape industry promotes practices to help prevent the introduction and spread of jumping worms, including working with suppliers to ensure they are aware of jumping worms and are doing their best to keep them out of the products they sell.
- Jumping worms can be moved in soil or other substrates as small juveniles and tiny cocoons (egg cases), so it is difficult to eliminate the possibility that they are present in such materials.
- There are no control products currently approved for managing jumping worms. Research on potential controls is ongoing but will take time.

What are jumping worms?

- Jumping worms are named for their energetic, snake-like movements when disturbed and include several species of invasive earthworms from Asia.
- Jumping worms feed on organic matter and cause harm by eliminating the surface leaf litter layer, damaging plant roots, modifying soil structure to become granular like coffee grounds, and changing soil pH and nitrogen levels. These changes cause negative impacts to soil microorganisms and plant and animal communities.



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How do they spread?

- Jumping worms can be spread as cocoons, juveniles, and adults through contaminated soil, landscape plants, mulch, leaf litter, manure, compost that hasn't been fully heat treated, and earthworm stocks sold for fishing bait and vermicomposting (composting using worms).
- Jumping worms and cocoons can be moved in soil on vehicles, landscape tools, and footwear. You can prevent the spread by cleaning soil off vehicles and equipment before moving them to new sites.
- If you participate in informal plant exchanges or sales, reduce the risk of spread by asking the provider to rinse soil off the plant and re-potting in potting soil or sharing it as a bare root plant.

Planting quality landscape plants is important for the environment. Nursery and landscape professionals thank you for trusting them as suppliers of quality landscape plants, supplies, and services.

Visit these sites for more information:



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources jumping worm webpage:
mndnr.gov/qr/jumping-worms



Jumping worm best management practices compiled by the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association:
mndnr.gov/qr/jworm-best-practices