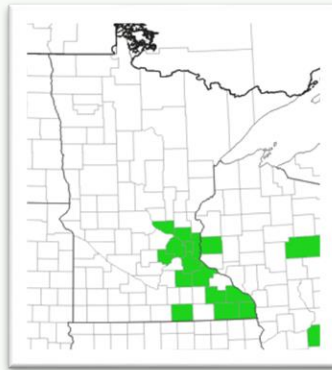


# JUMPING WORMS

## **STOP** the Spread of Invasive Species Wiggling Their Way Through Minnesota

If you have not heard by now – there's a new worm in town!

While all Minnesotan earthworms are invasive and alter the soil in our forests, the jumping worm is causing damage to the soils in our created-ecosystems (gardens and landscaping).



Counties with confirmed jumping worm populations in green.

The jumping worm (*Amyntas* spp.) has now been found through Southeastern Minnesota and into the cities.

### Quick Facts

- ◆ Jumping worms originated from Asia
- ◆ They have also been called the crazy worm, snake worm, and Alabama jumper
- ◆ Can grow up to 8" inches long
- ◆ Cocoons overwinter in mulch, soil and leaf debris
- ◆ Reproduce rapidly and asexually
- ◆ Most active in summer months into autumn

### Identifying Jumping Worms



Source: <https://jwp.cfans.umn.edu/jumpingworms-project>

- ◆ Vigorous wiggling and snake-like movement
- ◆ Smooth pigmented body and creamy white narrow band (clitellum) near their head
- ◆ Soil signature looks like coffee grounds
- ◆ Can be found in top 6 inches of soil, compost, or mulch

**DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT THE SPREAD**

To help stop the spread of Jumping Worms, follow these four steps

## GET INVOLVED

Share your information with friends, garden clubs and become a [Worm Ranger](#)



## PREVENT

Check mulch and compost for worms and cocoons before transporting. Keep infested soil on-site to prevent jumping worms spreading to new locations.



## REPORT

Help researchers better understand jumping worms by reporting sightings. Take photos and submit to [EDD MapS](#).



## DISPOSE

Collect and seal worms in a plastic bag disposing them in the trash to reduce further spread.

## Preventing the Spread of Jumping Worms

- ✓ Before shipping yard waste to city facilities, ask if the compost piles reach temperatures above 131°F and involves turning the compost on a schedule.
- ✓ It is unclear if adding mulch, compost, or wood chips to soil attracts the worms. If adding these organic materials be sure to know/ask where they come from and check thoroughly for worms and cocoons.
- ✓ To reduce geographic spread of jumping worms, limit the movement of soil, mulch, compost, and plants from one site to another. Remove any visible worms, wash plants, and your boots as cocoons can attach to the bottom of your shoes.
- ✓ When moving plant materials to a new site, wash the soil off the plant root and re-pot with clean potting soil or sell plants as a bare root. This is especially important if a site is known to contain jumping worms.
- ✓ Dispose of unused fishing bait in the trash.

### REPORT SIGHTINGS

Contact Resources

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#)

[The Minnesota Jumping Worm Project](#)

[Jumping Worm - University of Minnesota Extension](#)



Source: <https://jwp.cfans.umn.edu/jumping-worms-project>