

How did they get here and

We found jumping worms in Wisconsin in the fall of 2013. We don't know how they initially arrived, but we do know they can spread through multiple means.

Our goal now is to minimize their spread.

You can help prevent jumping worms from spreading to new areas. Start by knowing what to look for.

what can I do?



Watch for jumping worms and signs of their presence.



Educate yourself and others to recognize them.



Only use, sell, plant, purchase or trade landscape and gardening materials and plants that appear to be free of jumping worms.



Only sell, purchase or trade compost that was heated to appropriate temperatures and duration following protocols that reduce pathogens.



ARRIVE CLEAN, LEAVE CLEAN
Clean soil and debris from vehicles, equipment and personal gear before moving to and from a work or recreational area.

Why are they harmful?

Jumping worms change the soil in a negative way, more than any other earthworm we have in Wisconsin.



Soil becomes granular and looks like dried coffee grounds.

- They produce a unique, grainy soil “signature” which may keep plants from growing.
- Jumping worms produce young (cocoon) without a mate, so just one worm can start a population.
- Jumping worm cocoons can survive winter and hatch in spring!

Get involved!

Help us track down jumping worms in Wisconsin.

For more information visit dnr.wi.gov, keyword “jumping worm”

Email reports to Invasive.Species@wi.gov



Join Wisconsin’s First Detectors Network.
Be a citizen scientist.

Visit fyi.uwex.edu/wifdn to join!



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UNWANTED! Jumping Worms

Amyntas spp.

Be on the lookout for this new invader.

Protect your yard and forests!

How will I recognize them?



Clitellum is cloudy white to gray and smooth to the body of the worm, not raised.

Their appearance.

- Smooth, glossy gray color. The clitellum (lighter colored band) is cloudy-white to gray and completely circles their body.

Their behavior!

- They thrash wildly and can shed their tails in defense.



What you won’t see:

- You won’t have just one!
- You won’t see jumping worm adults until late June. They die in winter, while their young survive in cocoons.
- The cocoons are tiny. We can’t see them with just our eyes. (Cocoons hold the unhatched, baby worms.)

Where they spend their time.

- Jumping worms are easy to find. They stay on the soil surface.