

JUMPING WORMS (*Amyntas spp.*)

Background information:

“Jumping worms” are invasive earthworms that are native to East Asia. They reproduce and spread quickly and damage soil wherever they are found. They were first seen in Wisconsin in 2013 and have since spread to 5 counties, including Outagamie. They are known and sold under several common names including crazy worms, Alabama jumpers and snake worms.

Jumping Worm (<i>Amyntas sp</i>)	European Earthworm (<i>Lumbricus sp</i>)
Flop and wriggle vigorously when handled	Do not wriggle vigorously when handled
Clitellum (band) is white, smooth and flat	Clitellum (band) is raised and ridged
Body is dark, gray in color	Body is paler, pink in color
Reproduce rapidly - drop cocoons frequently throughout the warm months	Reproduce more slowly – drop only 1-2 cocoons per year



Jumping Worm: Notice the flat, white clitellum on a dark body



European Earthworm: Notice the raised pink clitellum on pale body

Why We Should Be Concerned

Jumping worms change the soil by disrupting the natural decomposition of leaf litter that plants need in order to thrive. They turn good soil into grainy, dry worm castings (poop) that cannot support the native understory plants of our forests. The damaged soil also makes it difficult for native seeds to germinate. In residential and urban areas, they can also harm ornamental plantings and turf.

They are a **RESTRICTED** species under **Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule NR 40**

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