## SLELO PRISM Partners Share These Goals:

**PREVENTION**

Prevent the introduction of invasive species into the SLELO PRISM region.

**EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE**

Detect new and recent invaders and rapidly respond to eliminate all individuals within a specific area.

**COOPERATION**

Share resources, expertise, personnel, equipment, and information.

**INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

Collect, utilize, and share information regarding surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring, and research.

**CONTROL**

Control invasive species infestations by using best management practices, methods and techniques to include:

*ERADICATION* - Eliminate all individuals and the seed bank from an area.

*CONTAINMENT* - Reduce the spread of established infestations.

*SUPPRESSION* - Reduce the density but not necessarily the total infested area.

**RESTORATION**

Develop and implement effective restoration methods for areas that have been degraded by invasive species and where suppression or control has taken place.

**EDUCATION / OUTREACH**

Increase public awareness and understanding of invasive species issues through volunteer monitoring, citizen science and community outreach.

**SLELO PRISM**

*This QR code will link to more resources.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:


St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

**SLELO PRISM**

*C/O The Nature Conservancy*

**(315) 387-3600 x 7725**

www. imapinvasives.org


## Get Involved

Help find invasive species of interest in your region. For details, contact

megan.pistolese@tnc.org

**Stay informed, join our listserv**
**Follow these steps to join:**

1. Email cce-slelo-l -request@cornell.edu
2. Type "join" in subject space
3. Leave email body blank and send

Photo Credits: University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum, https://arboretum.wisc.edu/news/arboretum-news/research-update-jumping-worms-and-sleeping-cocoons. Mustard pour & ID traits Karen Ceballos, NY Master Naturalist Program Cornell Cooperative Extension Department of Natural Resources, https://twitter.com/hashtag/jumpingworms?src=hash. Granular soil photo: https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/a/4227/files/2017/11/JumpingWoms_FactSheet-11_15_17-2026fwt.pdf. Work cited:


(1) https://extension.unh.edu/blog/invasive-spotlight-jumping-worms

(2) https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/a/4227/files/2017/11/JumpingWoms_FactSheet-11_15_17-2026fwt.pdf


**SLELO PRISM**

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Invasive Species Management

*"Teaming Up to Stop the Spread of Invasive Species"*

# What you Should Know About Asian Jumping Worms

**SLELO PRISM**

*"Teaming up to stop the spread of invasive species"*

## What are Jumping Worms?

Asian jumping worms is a term given to species in the family Megascolecidae. In New York three species (Amynthas agrestis, Amynthas tokioensis and Metaphire hilgendorphi) often co-invade a site. Like all earthworms, jumping worms were unintentionally introduced to North America, likely through infested nursery stock. While they are now widespread throughout much of the US, they have only recently been documented in northern hardwood in NY State.

Often, earthworms are considered beneficial to soil health. This is true for European earthworms in some places such as gardens and agricultural fields, but is definitely not the case for invasive Asian jumping worms.

Asian jumping worms reproduce twice as fast as European earthworms, and consume soil organic matter so effectively and fast that the soil becomes very palletized, which dries out quickly. For a plant it is like trying to grow in gravel instead of soil.

Plus, jumping worms contain heavy metals that could be harmful to predators and don't serve as a nutritional and reliable food source.

**Asian jumping worms do not need to mate, and a single one can start a whole new population.** They are easily spread through the movement of nursery stock, vermiculture, compost, topsoil, fishing bait, well as gardening and landscaping equipment and shoe treads.

**Look for Asian jumping worms on the soil surface just beneath the leaf litter of forest areas or urban backyards and parks.**

## You Can Stop The Spread:

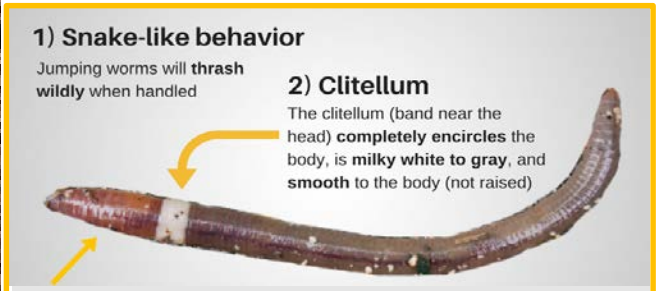
Currently, there are no methods known to control earthworms. Therefore, preventing their spread is most important. Below are some precautionary steps that can help slow their spread.

- Buy bare root stock when possible and be wary of sharing /moving plants.
- **Do Not** buy/use jumping worms for bait, vermicomposting or gardening.
- Only buy compost that is heat treated, or leave bagged mulch in the sun for 3 days to allow it to heat to at least 104 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Thoroughly clean garden tools, shoes and vehicles.

### If You Find Asian Jumping Worm:

- Note the location in which the worm was found.
- Take close up photos of the specimen, be sure to include a close up of the band around the body of the worm (clitellum).
- Report sighting to iMapinvasives.org or your local Cornell Cooperative Extension.


## Identifying Asian Jumping Worms:




Clitellum located closer to the head than European worm species. **Adults are visible July-September**

**Not to be confused with:**
Common non-native European species which have a raised, reddish clitellum

Granular soil that resembles coffee grounds is a sign of an Asian jumping worm infestation. Pictured below is an example.