

# Our 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.

## INNOVATION

Explore technologies to enhance invasive species prevention and management initiatives.

# SLELO PRISM

Hosted by The Nature Conservancy  
315 387 3600

[www.sleloinvasives.org](http://www.sleloinvasives.org)

[www.swallowwortcollaborative.org](http://www.swallowwortcollaborative.org)

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## Explore, Observe, Report

Learn to recognize and report invasive species in our region.

For details contact:

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## Stay Connected

1. Email [megan.pistolese@tnc.org](mailto:megan.pistolese@tnc.org)
2. Type "join e-mail list" in subject space.
3. Hit send and receive seasonal e-newsletters and event updates.

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# SLELO PRISM

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Invasive Species Management  
"Teaming Up to Stop the Spread of Invasive Species"

**Jumping Worms**  
*Amyntas spp.*



**SLELO PRISM**  
*Protecting Our Lands & Waters*

## What are Jumping Worms?

Jumping worm is a term given to species in the family *Megascolecidae*. In New York, there are three species of jumping worms, *Amyntas agrestis*, *Amyntas tokioensis* and *Metaphire hilgendorphi*, that 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 New York 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 jumping worms.

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.

**Jumping worms do not need to mate, and a single worm 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 jumping worms on the soil surface just beneath the leaf litter of forest**

## 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](http://iMapinvasives.org) or your local Cornell Cooperative Extension.

## How to Check Your Property For INVASIVE JUMPING WORMS Using a mustard pour

1) Mix 1 gallon of water with 1/3 cup of ground yellow mustard seed



2) Clear a bare patch of soil and pour solution slowly over soil. This will drive any worms to the surface

3) If you have jumping worms, report it to [www.nyimainvasives.org](http://www.nyimainvasives.org)



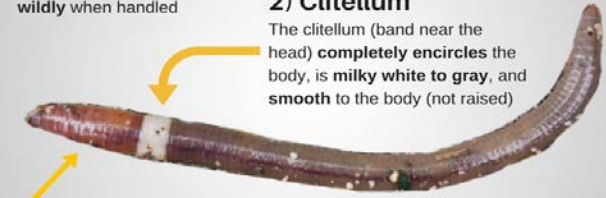
## Identifying Jumping Worms:

### 1) Snake-like behavior

Jumping worms will thrash wildly when handled

### 2) Clitellum

The clitellum (band near the head) completely encircles the body, is milky white to gray, and smooth to the body (not raised)



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.

