

# Containing Invasives in the Garden

We take invasives seriously as part of our mission to promote healthy landscapes. We keep up to date on current and emerging invasives and adjust our practices accordingly. While no one can guarantee zero spread, we follow strict protocols to reduce the risk by:

- utilizing heat-treated mulches and composts.
- sourcing plants from growers following soil sterilization standards.
- thoroughly cleaning boots and tools between sites.
- removing spilled soil from sidewalks and boulevards.
- avoiding transporting soils/materials known to be contaminated.
- educating others about invasives and containment strategies.



## Focus: Jumping Worm *Amyntas spp.*



Photo by Alfredo Eloisa | CC BY-NC-SA

Jumping worms can dramatically change soil. They feast on mulch and strip vital nutrients from topsoil, killing plants and increasing erosion. Your soil may develop a texture similar to coffee grounds, and you may have a harder time growing plants. This species has infested other parts of the United States and has recently been found in Minnesota.

**Identification:** Jumping worms move like snakes. Sometimes they appear to be jumping in your mulch. A light-colored ring extends around the body (see photo). You might see "coffee ground" soil.

### Reduce the Spread

- Look out for jumping worms in soil, potted landscape plants, mulch or compost. Don't move material that may contain jumping worms, including soil around plant roots.
- Clean soil off garden gear (tools, gloves, shoes, carts, etc.) and bare root plants before transporting them.

### Reporting Jumping Worms

If you suspect you have spotted a jumping worm, take close-up photos including the white ring (the collar-like clitellum) and/or a video of the worm moving. Contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) below.

### Learn More

- MN DNR — <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/jumping-worm/index.html>
- UMN Extension — <https://extension.umn.edu/identify-invasive-species/jumping-worms>
- UMN Jumping Worm Project — <https://jwp.cfans.umn.edu/jumping-worms-project>

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