



Adult jumping worm

SPREAD PREVENTION

Prevent the spread of jumping worms and their eggs by cleaning equipment before moving to another site, reducing the transportation of mulch and soil, and carefully inspecting nursery plants before installing them in a new landscape.

RELEVANT WEBSITES

Illinois Extension Forestry

- <https://extension.illinois.edu/forestry>

Illinois Plant Clinic

- <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/plantclinic/>

Wisconsin DNR Jumping Worm page

- <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/jumpingWorm/index.html>

RECOMMENDED CITATION

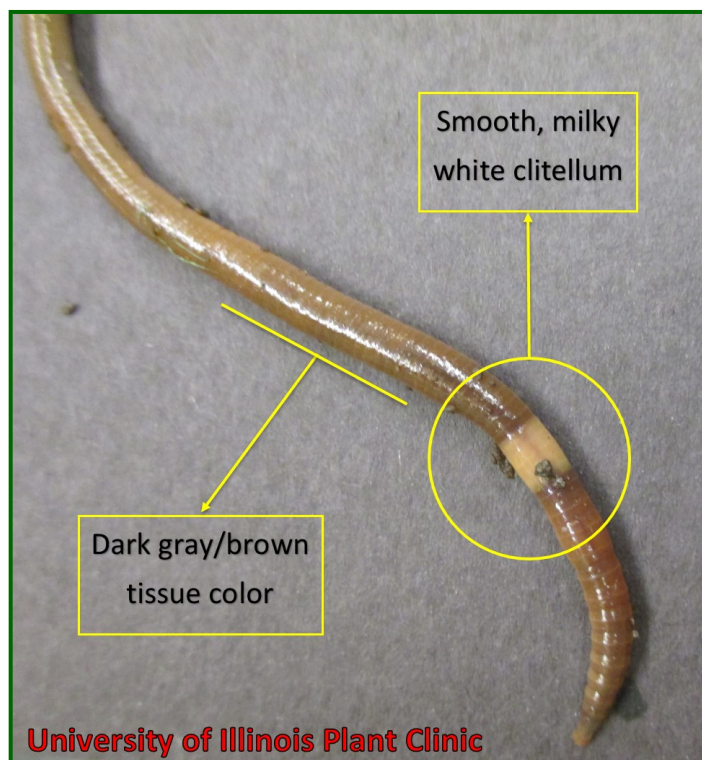
Evans, C.W. and D.E.W. Plewa. 2016. Invasive Species Alert: Jumping Worms, University of Illinois Extension Technical Forestry Bulletin. NRES-1603, revised August 2020. Urbana, IL. 2p.

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IDENTIFICATION

- Large worm (4-8 inches)
- Generally darker on top than the bottom
- Smooth, clitellum (colored band) that completely circles the body and is not raised. Starts at or around the fourteenth segment
- Skin glossy or iridescent
- Thrashes wildly when handled or disturbed
- Can shed tail in defense
- Found in leaf litter and top 3-4 inches of soil
- Adults usually seen from mid-summer through first hard freeze
- Established populations can produce a unique soil signature that resembles coffee grounds



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