



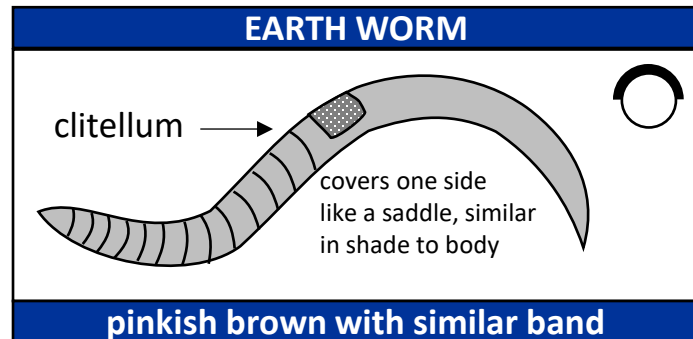
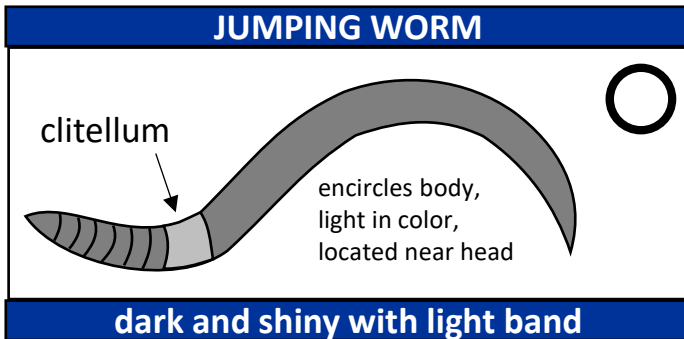
The Facts About Jumping Worms

BVGC INVASIVE SPECIES FACT SHEET

Asian jumping worms (*amynthas agrestis*) have been reported in Massachusetts for the past 30 years. They consume organic material and can remove nutrients from the ground, potentially harming plants and depriving your soil of nutrients. Although there has been an increase in activity lately, like all pests they can be identified and managed.

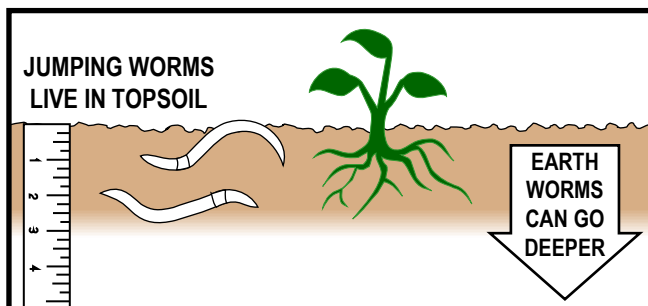
DESCRIPTION: Adults are on average 5" but can get as long as 8". They are smooth, glossy, and dark grey in color. Their clitellum (a band around the body) is light grey, close to the head, and encircles the entire body - unlike benign earthworms whose clitellum only marks one side.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



LIFESPAN: Worms hatch from miniscule eggs around Memorial Day. It takes them nearly three months to mature so **adults are not usually noticeable until the end of August**. In the fall they lay eggs inside cocoons the size of poppyseeds. The worms themselves do not survive frost, but their eggs will overwinter.

BEHAVIOR: Jumping worms live on top of the ground and do not burrow deeply. They feast on organic matter such as the leafy mulch of a forest floor. When disturbed the worms will thrash violently, and **their movements resemble that of a snake**. They are not harmful to people or pets.



HABITAT: They live and nest in the **top four inches of soil**. Studies have shown that they prefer moist areas with high organic content, especially the edges of forests.

DETECTION: If you suspect you might have jumping worms on your property, do not panic. Check for the behavior mentioned above and look for castings (feces) which have the appearance of coarse coffee grounds.

EXTERMINATION: Any worms, along with their eggs, can be killed by covering the ground with clear plastic and generating 104°+ heat for three days. Adults can also be killed by putting them in a bucket with vinegar or soap. Place worms in plastic trashbag for disposal.

