



Plant Sale Recommendations to Reduce Jumping Worm Spread (*Amyntas* spp)

Prevention, Early Detection, Rapid Response, Management

This document is intended for plant sale organizers and participants to limit the spread of invasive jumping worms (*Amyntas* spp). Soil, plant roots, and mulch are the most likely spreaders of jumping worms at plant sales.



Photo: Flickr by Alfredo Eloisa

Prevention

- If a yard or garden is known to have jumping worms it's safest to not accept plants or garden materials from that location. A current map of confirmed jumping worms in Minnesota can be found at <https://z.umn.edu/jumpingwormdistribution>.
- Spread the word to plant sale goers about jumping worms, and how to identify and report them.

Early Detection



- If you think or know you have jumping worms, do not provide plants and materials to a plant sale even if you plan to take measures to remove worms. Soil that resembles coffee grounds is an indicator of jumping worm presence.
- Worried about jumping worms in your garden? Check out the Great Lakes Worm Watch website at <http://nrri.umn.edu/WORMS/default.htm> for information on how to sample for and identify worms.

Rapid Response - Reporting

If you think you have jumping worms, report them with high-quality photos for verification. Photos need to be in focus and include the ring (clitellum) around their body showing its distance from the head. Preferred reporting methods are:

1. GLEDN app (Great Lakes Early Detection Network free smartphone app)
2. EDDMapS Midwest website: <https://www.eddmaps.org/midwest/>
3. Laura Van Ripper, MN DNR: Laura.Vanriper@state.mn.us

Management - Plant Sale Best Practices

- ❑ Only accept plants from gardeners that have looked for jumping worms and use these practices to prevent their spread:
 - ❑ Plants and materials do not come from an area known to have jumping worms.
 - ❑ There is no reason, like soil that resembles coffee grounds, to suspect there are jumping worms at the site that produced these plants and materials.
- ❑ Remove soil from all plants before transporting them to limit the spread of weeds and worms. This helps to remove earthworm cocoons (egg cases) or weed seeds.
- ❑ Completely submerge plant roots in water and wash away remaining soil. Actively look for worms. Once roots appear clean, protect roots for transportation and sale. Water is sufficient to remove soil and other materials from the roots.
- ❑ Sell bare root plants when possible.
- ❑ If plants must be sold in soil, repot with clean potting soil. The best way to ensure clean soil is to purchase from a reputable dealer, bagged weed and pathogen-free potting soil.
- ❑ Do not use mulch, leaves, backyard compost or other material that may harbor jumping worm eggs or weed seeds.
- ❑ Gather and transport plants ready for sale on surfaces like concrete, tarps or trays where the newly potted plants cannot pick-up contaminated materials like soil, leaves or mulch.

“Do the best you can until you know better.

Then when you know better, do better.” - *Maya Angelou*

