

Community detection of invasive jumping worms in Ontario

Jumping worms are a new group of non-native invasive earthworms that threaten gardens and natural ecosystems and **we need your help** to monitor their spread!

For more about this project, jumping worm identification, and EDDMapS, check out our **recorded webinar** available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sh09RcANN3s>.



Search a local area (e.g., garden, park, trail) in the summer or fall for jumping worm casts. Look for loose, crumbly material with a texture like dried coffee grounds spread evenly over the soil. Casts may be shallow or 10+ cm deep.

Search through the loose casts for jumping worms. Jumping worms are often grey-brown with a milky white ring running around their body near the head and may thrash or “jump” wildly when disturbed.



Possible jumping worms present.

Collect data for observation. Take a photo and video of the jumping worms and their casts. Answer questionnaire* (see below) about the sample location.

No jumping worms found.



Submit observation to EDDMapS. *Jumping worms found:* Upload photos and questionnaire answers to <https://www.eddmaps.org/> and send video to michael.mctavish@alum.utoronto.ca.
No jumping worms: Enter “Negative” on EDDMapS.

***When reporting on EDDMapS, please complete this questionnaire under “Additional Information”:**

1. Is this the first time you noticed suspected jumping worms in this location? If not, when did you first notice them?
2. Did you recently introduce any soil amendments (e.g., soil, mulch) or plants to this location? If yes, please describe (a) the types of amendments/plants, (b) when they were added, and (c) where they were purchased (please use general descriptors [e.g., nursery], DO NOT identify specific businesses).
3. Have you observed any negative impacts in the area that you think might be associated with the suspected jumping worms? If yes, please describe.



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Do you have **questions** or **jumping worm videos** to accompany your observation? Please email Dr. Michael McTavish (michael.mctavish@alum.utoronto.ca).