

Dear Garden Club friends,

Nancy Soulette, one of our new members, attended the U. Mass. jumping worm conference and compiled all the wonderful knowledge she gleaned from the 4 speakers. It's a wonderful in-depth document which she worked very hard on. Even though there aren't solutions yet to eliminate jumping worms, this document discusses identification, their life cycle, and strategies to protect areas that aren't yet infected.

Please read and share. [Jumping Worm Conference Notes final](#)

Belinda

Nancy forwards the following from:
Stacy Carter

Conservation Planner
Lincoln Conservation Department
Hi Nancy,

Thank you so much!

There is no need for residents to report jumping worm sightings to our department - it appears that the jumping worm population is already extensive in Lincoln, so Conservation has no plan to actively manage them at this time due to the difficulty of controlling invertebrates. By reporting to EDDmaps, however, residents can help provide more accurate information to the state and other experts who are working on jumping worm management. Residents can feel free to reach out to me if they need assistance using EDDmaps. Link to the maps is eddmaps.org.

Best,

Stacy Carter
Conservation Planner
Lincoln Conservation Department
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Additional links about Jumping Worms:

Jumping Worms pdf. from Oregon State.
https://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sites/seagrant.oregonstate.edu/files/jumping_worm_outreach_material.pdf

Asian Jumping Worms: A Homeowner's Guide

<https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/103692>

Karen Seo sends U.Mass conference information.

Jumping worms are an invasive species, negatively affect the soil structure, etc. There seems to be a fair amount of concern. They have been showing up around Lincoln.

- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/highly-invasive-jumping-worms-have-spread-15-us-states-180977566/>
- <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/jumping-worm/index.html>
- <https://extension.umn.edu/identify-invasive-species/jumping-worms>

UMass is holding a Jumping Worm Conference on Jan 26 (9am to 11:45am) and Jan 27 (9am to 11:45am) -- \$25 for one day, \$40 for both days. This appears to be an online webinar, not an in person meeting. I plan to attend. **Here's the web page with agenda and registration info.** <https://ag.umass.edu/landscape/events/jumping-worm-conference>

Link forwarded by Bernadette Quirk

[Jumping Worms-Accessible V2021 OPTIMIZED](#)

***Gardeners “En Garde”!* by Belinda Gingrich**

I heard about jumping worms several times this year, but I hadn't seen any in my yard, so they took a back seat in my mind as the gardening season progressed. We brought in large quantities of new plants, compost, and wood chips this year, and the garden was looking happy and healthy.

In June I noticed a funny bare patch on my front lawn, but was unconcerned. I might have left a pot there for too long. It was only ajuga that had died anyway.





In mid-August, I looked again and the bare patch had grown. Rapidly. Now it was about 10' long. Upon close inspection, there were excessive worm castings, the hallmark "coffee ground" sign of jumping worms. The ground was mushy and sunk under each step. Alright, I thought, I'll just quarantine this area and contain the spread. A foolish thought! An inspection of the front yard the following day revealed worm castings throughout most of the front garden.

Some ID tips:

Jumping worms are larger and stronger than the "usual" earthworms seen in our gardens. The encircling band or clitellum is milky-white or gray (rather than pink or the same color as the body). It is also closer to their head. Telling signs include the abundant castings and overly aerated ground



Worms in general are not native to our Northeastern ecosystem. After the last ice age, colonists introduced them to New England and they spread through the cultivated landscape.

Likewise, jumping worms are spreading very quickly as fishing bait or through sales of plants and soil. The egg cocoons are very small and easily transported on boots and gardening tools. Although the worms die in the winter, their cocoons survive and hatch in the spring. Jumping worms reproduce asexually, so it only takes one to start an infestation!

Some suggestions:

- Compost “in place” to slow the spread of worms around your garden
- Carefully source compost and mulch. Studies have shown that heat over [100 degrees Fahrenheit](#) will kill the jumping worm cocoons.
- Trade/Give seeds rather than plants, or if moving plants, strip the dirt from the roots and repot with sterile potting soil.

Since I discovered the infestation in my yard, I've heard from several other LGC members about their battles with jumping worms. Please take the above precautions so that we can slow the spread of the worms through town and keep them out of our forests.

<http://rocklandcce.org/environment/invasive-pests/jumping-worm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkreYjDEp9Q>