

Jumping worm

Amyntas agrestis

Description

Little is known about *Amyntas* earthworms. They are believed to be native to Southeast Asia and entered the Great Lakes Region through nursery stock. They thrive in garden shops where flower pots are displayed over soil and travel in and out of pots' drain holes in search of food.

Identification

Appears almost grey in color, can be 1.5 to 8 inches long, clitellum is milky white and smooth, unlike other species in which it is raised. Will act crazy, jumping and thrashing and may shed their tails when handled.

Habitat

Native to Southeastern Asia. Typically surface-dwelling consumers of leaf litter. Highly adaptive to temperature changes and non particular to habitat types. Crazy worms will produce a unique soil signature.

Reproduction





Parthenogenic: asexual reproduction. Reaches maturity in 60 days which allows for 2 hatches a season. Cocoons over winter and are very cold resistant.

Impact

They have voracious appetites, in which they consume beds of leaf litter which might have taken decades to build up. Leaf litter is an important resource to many native plants and animals, and its removal and loss will have long-term, harmful effects on forests. Can be spread via mulch, compost, nursery stock, transplanting and bait.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Mixing mustard powder and water creates a chemical reaction and is poured over the infested area. This causes all soil invertebrates to come to the surface.

Credits

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