



Prevent the spread of jumping worms

Jumping worms are invasive and destructive worms that can quickly degrade soils, kill garden plants and damage lawns. They look similar to nightcrawlers and other earthworms except that they wiggle intensely when disturbed and can appear to be jumping. If you have granular soil that resembles coffee grounds, you likely have jumping worms.

COMMON SOURCES OF JUMPING WORMS

- Soil, potted landscape plants and sod.
- Worms purchased for fishing bait.
- Worms bought online for vermi-composting (composting indoors with worms).
- Worms bought online for use in backyard compost bins.
- Wood mulches from areas that have jumping worms.

Jumping worms are unlikely to be found in Ramsey County's compost piles. The worms and their eggs cannot survive the high temperatures (140-170 °F) when creating the finished compost.

They can, however, be spread by moving dirt. For this reason, dirt and other plant material at our yard waste sites will not be available for residents to take home. And starting in 2022, we will not allow residents to drop off dirt at our White Bear Township site.

Find other disposal options at [RamseyRecycles.com/AtoZ](https://www.ramseyrecycles.com/AtoZ) or call **651-633-EASY (3279)**.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF JUMPING WORMS

- Don't buy them for any purpose.
- If you fish, dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- Inspect mulch and potted plants.
- If you swap plants with friends and neighbors, wash off the soil and share them as bare root plants.
- Brush mud off your boots and equipment.

If you find jumping worms, place them in a sealed container and dispose of them in the trash.

Learn more about jumping worms at:
<https://extension.umn.edu/identify-invasive-species/jumping-worms>