

Riverdale Horticultural Society (RHS) Position Statement on the invasive species: Pheretimid Jumping Worms

It has been brought to our attention that jumping worms have been confirmed in Ontario by the Master Gardeners of Ontario Facebook group. Dr. Michael McTavish from S.M. Smith Forest Health Lab, and Dr. John W. Reynolds of the Oligochaetology Laboratory, confirmed the presence of these worms in Ontario soil.

Why is this important to you?

While all earthworms are invasive in Ontario, jumping worm posts a substantial risk to our gardens and some forests. These invasive worms will live in the top soil in our gardens, “consuming all fallen organic matter”¹.

RHS is researching the impact of jumping worms, how to prevent infestation in our area, and provide reputable information to our community.

In the meantime, here are a few things you should know.¹

1. Do not move plants with soil to new locations. Root washing is recommended before moving plants.
2. Thoroughly inspect plants for worms and or eggs.
3. Earthworms, such as red wigglers, purchased for composting may be contaminated with jumping worms. Likewise for worms purchased for fishing bait.

For more information about this invasive species visit
<https://www.cleannorth.org/?s=jumping+worms>

Or watch this video on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CPQH8q1Pfc>

We are committed to posting scientific updates, and practical tips, for our community of gardeners. Please visit our website and watch for updates before planting season begins this spring.

¹ <https://www.cleannorth.org/?s=jumping+worms>