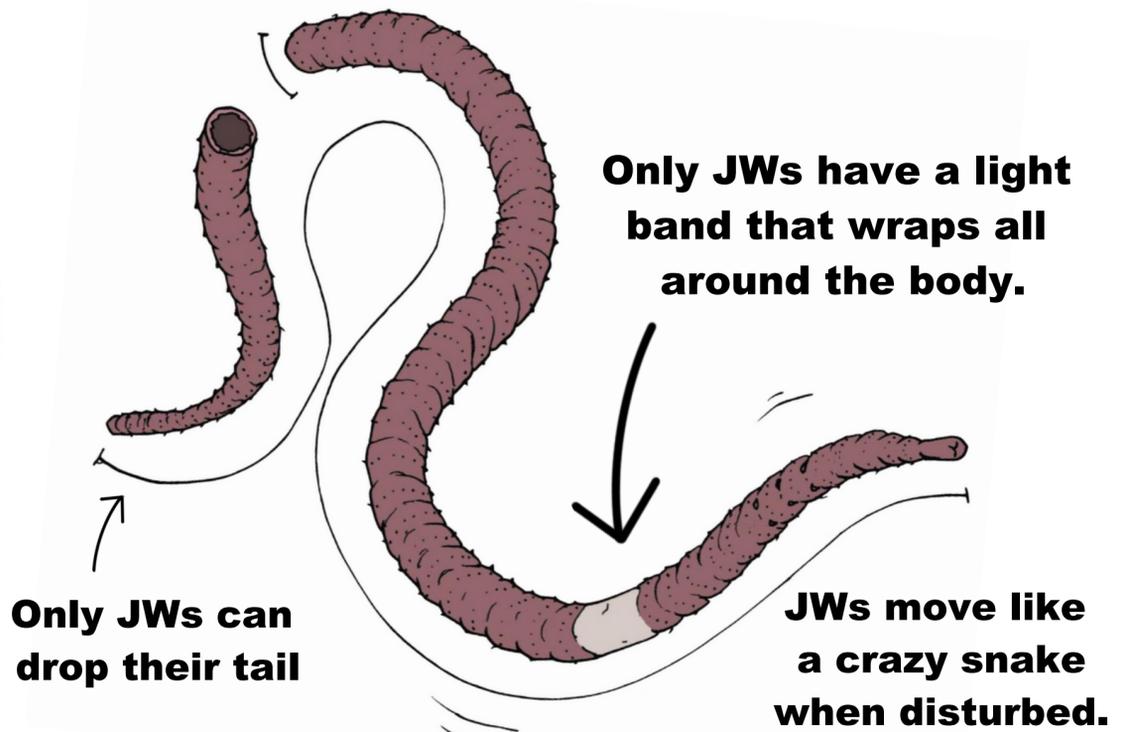
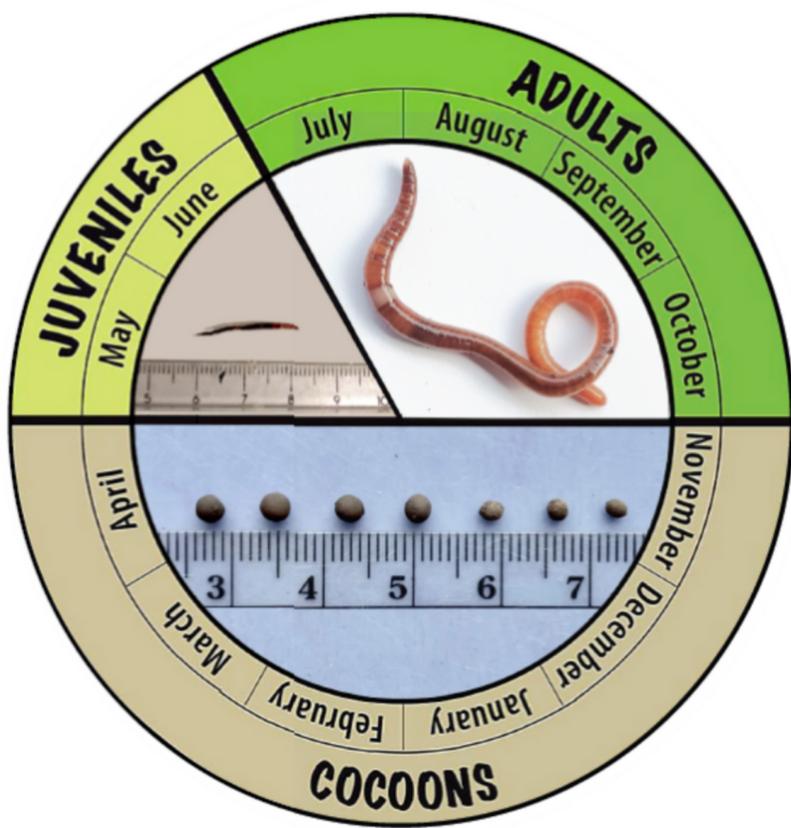


## How to Identify Jumping Worms



# Invasive Jumping Worms

## Spread the Word NOT the Worm!

### What's the problem?

Jumping Worms (JWs) are now confirmed in Ontario (Windsor-Essex (2014) (Dundas, Toronto, Wheatley (2021)). All earthworms in Ontario are non-native, but JWs cause much more damage & spread much more quickly. They can kill plants by stripping the soil of nutrients, leaving behind bare, dry granular pellets. They are a threat to our gardens & lawns, farms & forests, as well as bird and animal life.

### Prevention is Important!

There are currently no controls or pesticides to stop these worms. Become familiar with JW appearance, life cycle and snake-like movements. Jumping Worms die over winter, but their eggs survive in small cocoons and begin to hatch when temperatures reach 10°C. One Jumping Worm cocoon is enough to infest a garden. JWs will thrash & jump wildly if disturbed and may even drop a part of their tail. They are most easily identified, when they mature (July-Oct).

### Make a Difference by Reporting JWs

Ontario's Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System: [www.eddmaps.org/ontario/](http://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/)



Scan this QR Code for more information.



### What You Can do Now

**Bait:** Never use Jumping Worms for bait. Fish don't like them & they don't stay on a hook. Dispose of all unused bait in garbage, never on natural lands.

**Arrive Clean / Leave Clean:** Clean footwear before & after visiting any private, public garden or natural area.

**Ask Questions:** Ask nurseries, landscaping companies and soil, compost & mulch providers how they are controlling JWs. If they know nothing about JWs, then be concerned and offer to share information with them.

**Scout New Soil:** Check new mulch, compost, and soil for JWs.

**New Plants:** Inspect the soil & roots before planting in your yard. Be aware that in spring, worms will be tiny & impossible to identify. Choose bare-root plants or grow from seeds when possible.

**Safe Disposal:** Kill suspected JWs by freezing, leaving in a bag out in the sun, or soaking in vinegar or rubbing alcohol. Discard in garbage.

**Infested Soil:** Soil can be placed in sealed plastic bags & left in the sun. Temperatures need to reach a min. 40°C for at least 3 days, before garden reuse.



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