

INTRODUCTION

A new and destructive group of earthworms has been invading Vermont and surrounding areas – these include *Amyntas agrestis*, *Amyntas tokioensis* and *Metaphire hilgendorfi*. The *Amyntas agrestis* are commonly known as “snake worms”, “jumping worms” or “jumper worms”.

They are 70 to 160 mm long (about 3 to 6 inches, even as long as 8 inches) and 5 to 8 mm wide (around 1/5 to 1/3 inches). Because they live near the soil surface, the worms have more pigment on their dorsal (top) side than other worms, usually reddish but can often appear somewhat brownish or purplish with some iridescence. The mature worm has a mostly white but sometimes pinkish ring (clitellum) around the body. When touched or disturbed, the worm flails or jumps.

There are no pesticides currently labelled for nor other viable control methods to manage these invasive pests yet. However, we can all work to limit the spread of these worms, including through the transport of plants or soils

CULTIVATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

UfUbi Ug d edUj b d bSU S b d b U UbU U c d dS U Uv cUhe bU d d bth b dUSU V d S

QceU VeltU b SU V3 Ub dfU hdJ c g b Scb V i e U
S Ub d g d dUE dJ Cd dJc 4U U d V bSe delU E fUtd V
Ub d hdJ c 2eb d Ub d E fUtd V Ub d hdJ c EC
4U U d V bSe delU S Ub d WUbU eS d U i U dd
e UtdU c bS cd

Check all potted plants before transporting to the sale by removing them from the pot to look for active worms or castings.

Do NOT use any compost or potting media/soil for potting plants that has not been solarized. You can solarize soils placing a low pile (between 6 to 8 inches deep, 10 to 15 feet long and 4 to 8 feet wide) on top of a clear piece of plastic like a painter's drop cloth, then cover it with a sheet of the same material, tucking in the edges to prevent worms from escaping. Leave in the sun for 2 to 3 days to get the temperature over 105° F which will kill both cocoons and worms. Check the