

HOW TO IDENTIFY

STOP THE SPREAD

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4-5" long, thrashing,
snake-like, writhing when
disturbed

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The band near its head is
flush to the body,
completely wraps around
the worm, and white or
contrasting in color to its
gray or brown iridescent
body

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Creates a tremendous
amount of castings on the
soil surface that resemble
coarse coffee grounds



More information:

<http://csetompkins.org/resources/jumping-worm-fact-sheet>

JUMPING WORMS

INVASIVE WORMS FOUND IN ACTON!



- * Widespread in the Northeast US
- * Rapidly reproduce
- * Devour organic matter leaving soil lifeless
- * Destabilize and destroy forest understory
- * Currently no control method
- * Adults are visible in late summer and fall, die over the winter
- * Their eggs, called cocoons, are unwittingly spread through transport of soil, compost, and plants
- * Cocoons are size of mustard seed, dark and often unseen

Acton Garden Club

www.actongardenclub.org

BEST PRACTICES

STOP THE SPREAD

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Do not dispose of worms,
affected plants or soil in the
woods

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Solarize - destroy worms and
cocoons by placing in a clear
plastic bag and leave out in
sun for a day

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Solarize compost and soil
amendments before use

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Control in growing beds by
rototilling soil

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Choose bareroot plants or
rinse roots of transplants in a
bucket of water, strain water
and solarize solids before
disposing in trash

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Place potted plants on tables,
weed mats, or tarps for short
term storage