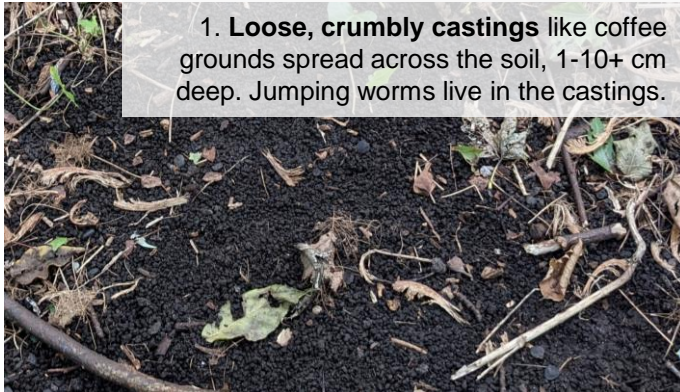


# ATTENTION: Invasive jumping worms in Ontario

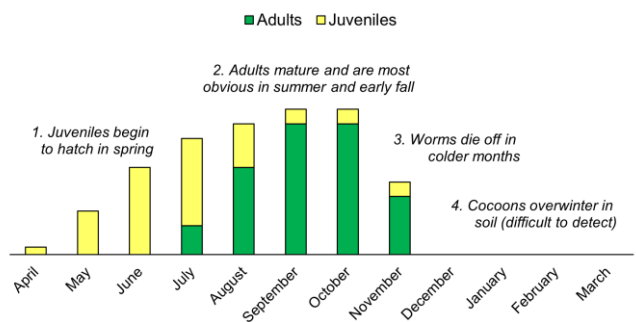
(Prepared August 2023 by Dr. Michael McTavish, University of Toronto)

- **Jumping worms** include several species of non-native, invasive earthworms that have recently been found in Canada and can spread quickly into new habitats.
- Jumping worms rapidly deplete organic matter near the surface, exposing soils to **desiccation**, **erosion** and **nutrient loss** and **harming plant biodiversity**.

## What am I looking for?



Jumping worm activity (adapted from McCay et al. 2020)



## What should I do?

1. **Inspect** new soil amendments and plants for jumping worms and their casts and **watch** for invasion in local parks and natural areas.
2. **Report sightings** to EDDMapS (<https://www.eddmaps.org/>). Collect photos and video of casts and earthworms and upload to *Report sightings* > *Wildlife* > *Ontario* > *jumping worms*.
3. **Limit the spread** by not sharing plants or soil amendments from infested locations and clean off all footwear and tools when working in or walking through an infested area.
4. **Eradicate** small populations (when practical) by euthanizing jumping worms in alcohol and solarizing soil under dark plastic, aiming to achieve at least 40°C for 3 days.

## Where can I find more information?

- Invasive Species Centre profile on jumping worms (<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/>).
- Contact Dr. Michael McTavish at the University of Toronto ([michael.mctavish@alum.utoronto.ca](mailto:michael.mctavish@alum.utoronto.ca)).