

Jumping Worm Conference

January 26 & 27, 2022

Agenda

Wednesday, January 26, 2022:

9:00 AM – Introductions, Pesticide & Association Credit Instructions

9:15 AM – **Earthworms in Managed and Urban Landscapes: Impacts and Solutions**, Dr. Olga Kostromytska
Extension Assistant Professor and Turf Entomologist, UMass Stockbridge School of Agriculture

*Jumping worms have garnered a lot of interest from the public in recent years. This presentation will discuss the identification and biology of invasive earthworms in MA, and their role/impact in urban landscapes. This will include information about "crazy/jumping worm" species (*Amyntas*) that have many homeowners in MA and New England concerned. Dr. Kostromytska will also share updates about current research.*

10:15 AM – Break

10:30 AM – **Invasive *Amyntas* and *Metaphire* earthworms in New England forests, their damage to soils and alteration of nutrients**, Dr. Justin Richardson, Department of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst

**Amyntas* and *Metaphire* earthworms have been introduced to urban, peri-urban, and rural forests across New England. After invading a forest, they dramatically alter the structure of the soil, which then impacts the cycling of nutrients. These changes can improve soil conditions for some plants, especially non-natives, and diminish soil conditions for many native plants.*

11:30 AM – Final Pesticide & Association Credit Instructions

Thursday, January 27, 2022:

9:00 AM – Introductions & Pesticide & Association Credit Instructions

9:15 AM – **Jumping Worms - Why Care & What To Do?**, Dr. Josef Görres, Department of Plant and Soil Science at the University of Vermont

Jumping worms are getting more attention as landscape professionals and homeowners learn more about them. Dr. Görres will present on their ecology, phenology and geographical distribution. He will also discuss his research on biological control and other horticultural management strategies.

10:15 AM – Break

10:30 AM – **Understanding and Preventing Jumping Worm Invasion**, Dr. Annise Dobson, Postdoctoral Researcher, Yale School of the Environment

In this talk Dr. Dobson will discuss the impacts of invasive jumping worms on everything from native plants to infrastructure. You will learn how to identify jumping worms and learn the main drivers of their invasion. Dr. Dobson will share recommendations on how to prevent the spread of jumping worms and provide updates on research into management options.

11:30 AM – Final Pesticide & Association Credit Instructions