

## Important Information for All Who Share, Purchase, or Sell Plants



### THE JUMPING WORM IS AN INVASIVE SPECIES

The Jumping worm is an aggressive invasive earthworm that is very destructive of soils and is able to damage the character, functionality, and make-up of northern forests. These worms consume the upper organic layer of soil, which leaches away nutrients and leads to soil degradation and erosion. They are a species native to East Asia that have been present in parts of the Southern US for about 80 years, but have reached New England in just the past few, including confirmed cases of them being found here in Deerfield. Research is ongoing for strategies to control the spread of these worms, but has had limited success so far.

### Steps You Can Take If You Have Jumping Worms on Your Property

- Contain their spread by recognizing the worms when you see them.
- **Do not transplant mulch, soil, or plants to uncontaminated areas.**
- Plant bare root stock or seeds when possible.
- Do not buy *Amyntas* worms for composting, vermicomposting, gardening, or bait.
- If you already have these worms, remove and dispose of them by solarizing them or soaking them in isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. Do not put them in the compost pile or garden.

*Please contact the Deerfield Municipal Offices with any questions at (413) 665-1400 ext. 104, or email [ata@town.deerfield.ma.us](mailto:ata@town.deerfield.ma.us).*