

Typical Earthworms You
Will See in the Area



Leaf Worm *Lumbricus rubellus*



Nightcrawler *Lumbricus rubellus*



Red Wiggler *Eisenia fetida*



Invasive Species Coalition

www.wrisc.org

Want to be an Invasive Species
Partner or Volunteer?

Contact the WRISC Coordinator

Phone: (906) 774-8441

Email: wildriverscwma@gmail.com

ATTENTION FISHERMEN
Dispose of Unused Bait!

**EARTHWORMS
ARE
INVASIVE!**



Earthworm
Informational
Brochure

www.wrisc.org

All photos provided by: Bernie Williams, WIDNR

Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) - Knowing Invasive Species is the First Step!

Earthworms Are NOT Native to the Great Lakes



Photo by Great Lakes Worm Watch

Area covered in blue contained no earthworms before European settlement.



UNUSED WORMS?

Toss'em in the TRASH.



Photo of a forest with earthworms



Photo by Great Lakes Worm Watch

Photo of a forest without earthworms



Photo by Great Lakes Worm Watch

Earthworms dramatically change the hardwood forests

These changes include losses of native understory plant species and tree seedlings, changes in soil structure and decline in nutrient availability, and other changes in the forest that affect small mammal, bird and amphibian populations, increase the impacts of herbivores like white-tailed deer, and facilitate invasions of other exotic species such as European slugs and exotic plants like buckthorn and garlic mustard. A native, but dominating, plant species called Pennsylvania sedge can outcompete tree seedlings and take over the forest floor.

How Are Earthworms Spread?

Earthworms are transported, intentionally and unintentionally, through a range of human activities such as the dumping of unused fishing bait and transporting soil compost & mulch. Earthworms eggs can also be transported by hikers shoes and boots.

Boaters CAN Prevent Earthworms From Spreading!

When done fishing, dispose of any live bait into a garbage receptacle.

