

# WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



ALIEN INVADERS



# CRAZY WORM

## *Amyntus spp.*

Wisconsin's native earthworms were destroyed during the last ice age, subsequently forest ecosystems evolved without their presence.

### BASIC ID

Native to Asia, they are extremely active, aggressive and have voracious appetites. They jump and thrash immediately when handled and behave more like a threatened snake than a worm, sometimes fracturing and shedding their tail when caught. They are 1.5–8" in length. Unlike most other earthworms, their clitellum (the middle band of the worm) is not raised, and they have a pointy head and tail.

### FACTS

They have a very high reproductive rate. They severely impact forest ecosystems by devouring the leaf litter, which reduces the supply of organic matter available for tree regeneration and diversity.

### MANAGEMENT

- Don't release live bait on land or in water.
- Dispose of live worms in the trash.
- Clean shoes and tire treads—Don't spread worm eggs!
- Keep your compost contained near forests.

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*Spread The Word*  
**CONTAIN YOUR CRAWLERS!**  
*Keep Worms out of Our Woods!*



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