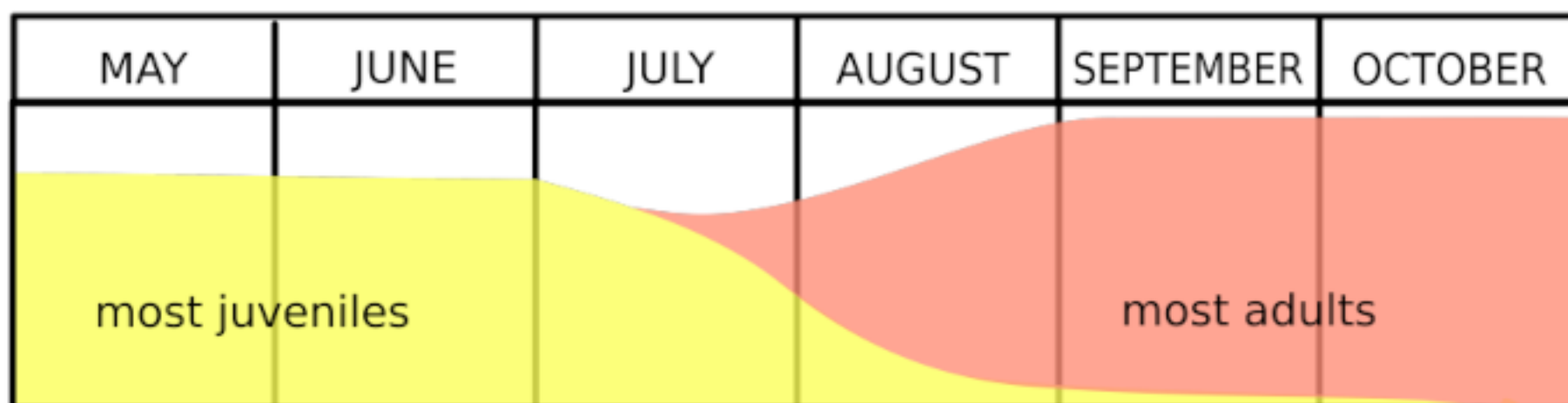


Life cycle



- * Most jumping worms die with the first freeze in autumn. Adults do not survive winter.
- * Egg cases overwinter in soil and hatch when conditions are favourable.
- * The majority hatch in May and June. Most hatching occurs at 10C.
- * Juveniles become adults (capable of breeding) in ~60 days.



More info and links on Crown Point Garden Club
<https://crownpointgardenclub.org/jumping-worms>

What's wrong with worms?

Snake worms, Alabama jumpers, crazy worms—they're not like "regular" earthworms. Although nearly all worms are invasive species in Canada, jumping worms, a more recent arrival, can devastate forests and gardens. Infestations have been reported in Hamilton and Dundas.

Instead of tunneling, jumping worms stay near the soil surface, devouring all organic matter—leaves, mulch, roots, and plants, including turfgrass.

They leave dry, granular piles of castings that look like coffee grounds or taco meat. These can create a thick, spongy layer that supports no life and enables erosion.

Originating in Asia, jumping worms have no natural predators here. They grow twice as fast as regular earthworms, reproduce more quickly and can infest soils at high densities.

There are no pesticides or controls—only prevention.

Invasive

Jumping Worms



Prevent them

Don't buy them for bait, or for any reason.

Vermicomposters: know how to identify the species you're buying.

Inspect all new plants, including those from established retailers.

Quarantine new plants (in a pot) until you're sure that worms are absent and any eggs have hatched.

Choose bare-root plants or grow from seed in sterile mix.

Egg cases can hide in soil left on shoe treads, tools, tires, and pet paws. Brush and clean off soil, cover or change your shoes when on infested property

Jumping worms can arrive via commercial compost, mulch, "black earth" or anything that contains organic matter. Ask the vendor about their storage / treatment methods.

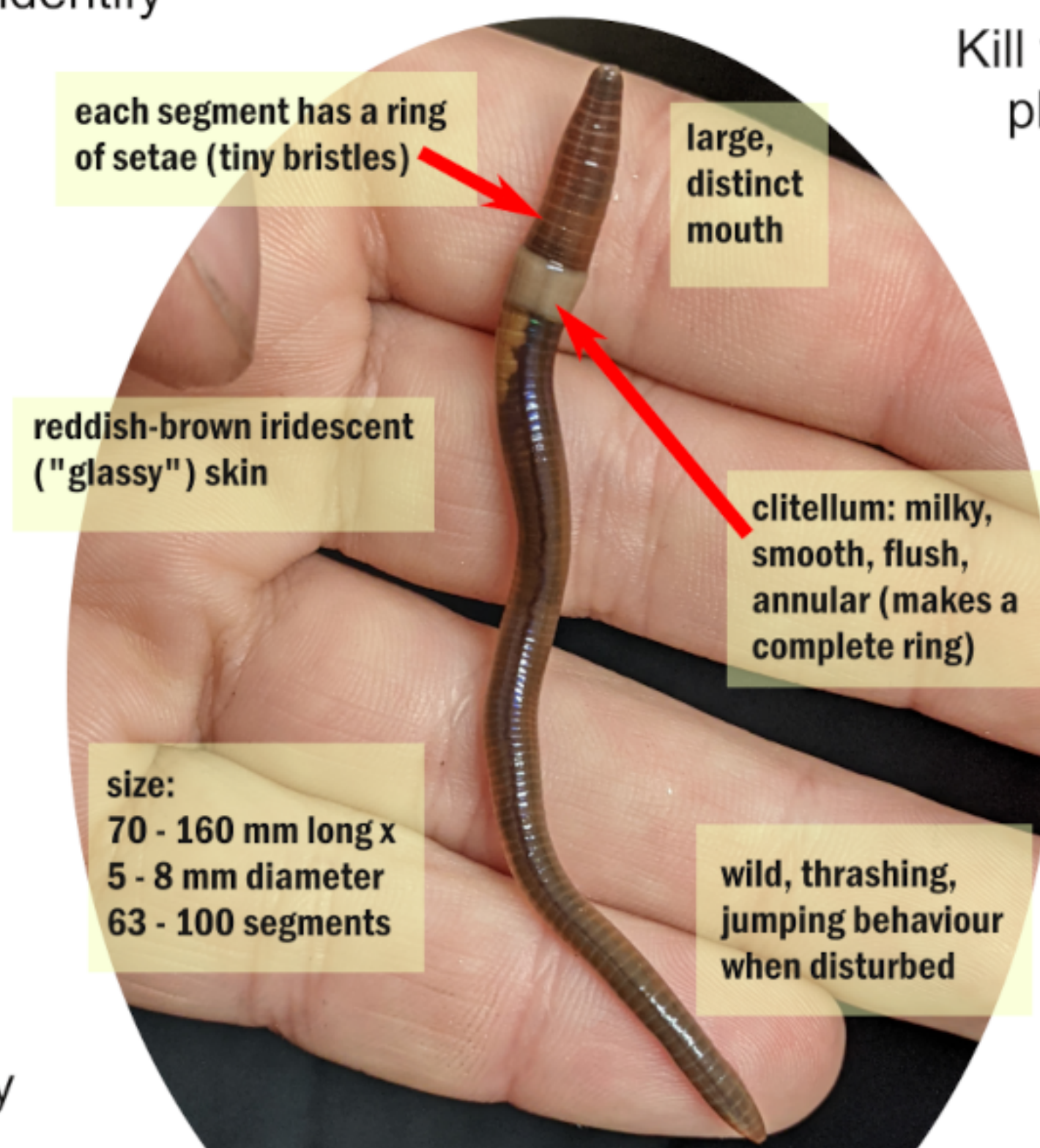
Manage them

Do not dispose of live jumping worms in compost or garbage. Kill them first.

Kill worms by collecting them in a clear plastic bag and leaving it in the sun. Worms die at 35C. Alternatively, drop them in vinegar or alcohol.

Egg cases are unaffected by freezing. Egg-infested soil can be heat treated. Put soil in sealed plastic bags and leave in sun so temperature reaches at least 40°C for at least three days before garden re-use.

Use a mustard pour to draw jumping worms to the surface. Mix 1/3 cup of ground yellow mustard seed into one gallon of water. Pour slowly over one square foot of soil. Be prepared to catch and contain worms as they come to the surface.



Amyntas agrestis

One of four jumping worm species in Ontario

CROWN POINT
GARDEN CLUB

www.crownpointgardenclub.org

Report Them

Ontario's Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System: www.eddmaps.org/ontario/

To learn more: <https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/land-and-animal-invertebrates/>