

Why do we need this policy?

As Master Gardener Volunteers we have a responsibility to our community and partners to be acting in an environmentally responsible manner. In addition we need to maintain our integrity and uphold our reputation. Therefore, we shall be following the industry BMPs for Jumping worms and in the course of our work show that we followed due diligence in not spreading jumping worms. This means we should take care not to introduce them to uninfested areas. We also owe it to our fellow MGVs who also have to work on the projects and risk the chance of taking them back to their own gardens.

This protocol is now a local policy supported by UWEX-Winnebago Co. It is not a recommendation but something you will be expected to follow if you want to donate plants or use donated plants in/on MGV projects. At some point jumping worms will become as common as buckthorn or garlic mustard, and at that time the protocol will be re-evaluated.

We owe it to our fellow MGV, partners, and the community as a whole to be verifying to the best of our ability that the plants being donated do not have jumping worms

Under the reclassification of "Restricted" selling, importing, transporting or introducing this species remains illegal and Best Management Practices offer guidance for complying with that law.