Watch Out For...

Earthworms

Photo Credits: Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

DESCRIPTION:

- "Earthworms" includes nightcrawlers, leaf worms, and angle worms
- Native to Europe and Asia
- None of the earthworms living here now are native to the Great Lakes area

IMPACT:

- Senamesh (sugar maple) and other trees are disappearing from earthworm-infested forests
- Earthworms eat up all the leaves on the forest floor. Without this leaf layer, tree seedlings and other plants struggle to grow.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Throw your nightcrawlers in the trash when you're done fishing, not the woods or your yard
- Don't dump soil, mulch, or compost in the woods
- Buy local mulch
- ATVs, trucks, and other vehicles – when out in the woods, clean out tire treads, wheel wells, truck bed, under the vehicle, and any other place mud can collect before going to another area or heading home

Photo Credits: Robert Lee, Bugwood.org

Many tree seedlings can't grow in the leafless, barren ground left by earthworms