

Research project needs volunteer worm-diggers

Do you dig earthworms? If so, then the Natural Resources Research Institute could use your help.

The agency is looking for volunteers to search and collect exotic earthworms in forests along the North Shore as part of ongoing research.

Although commonly used for fishing, worms are not native to this region. They were introduced by Europeans about 250 years ago, according to NRRI scientists, and they are detrimental to hardwood forests.

Trilliums, orchids and other spring and summer flowering plants are threatened, perhaps even the regeneration of sugar maple trees, said NRRI scientist Cindy Hale.

If you'd like to help collect and identify earthworms in September and October as part of this research project, go to www.GreatLakesWormWatch.org. You can sign up to volunteer there.

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