

Soil health: Earthworm survey.

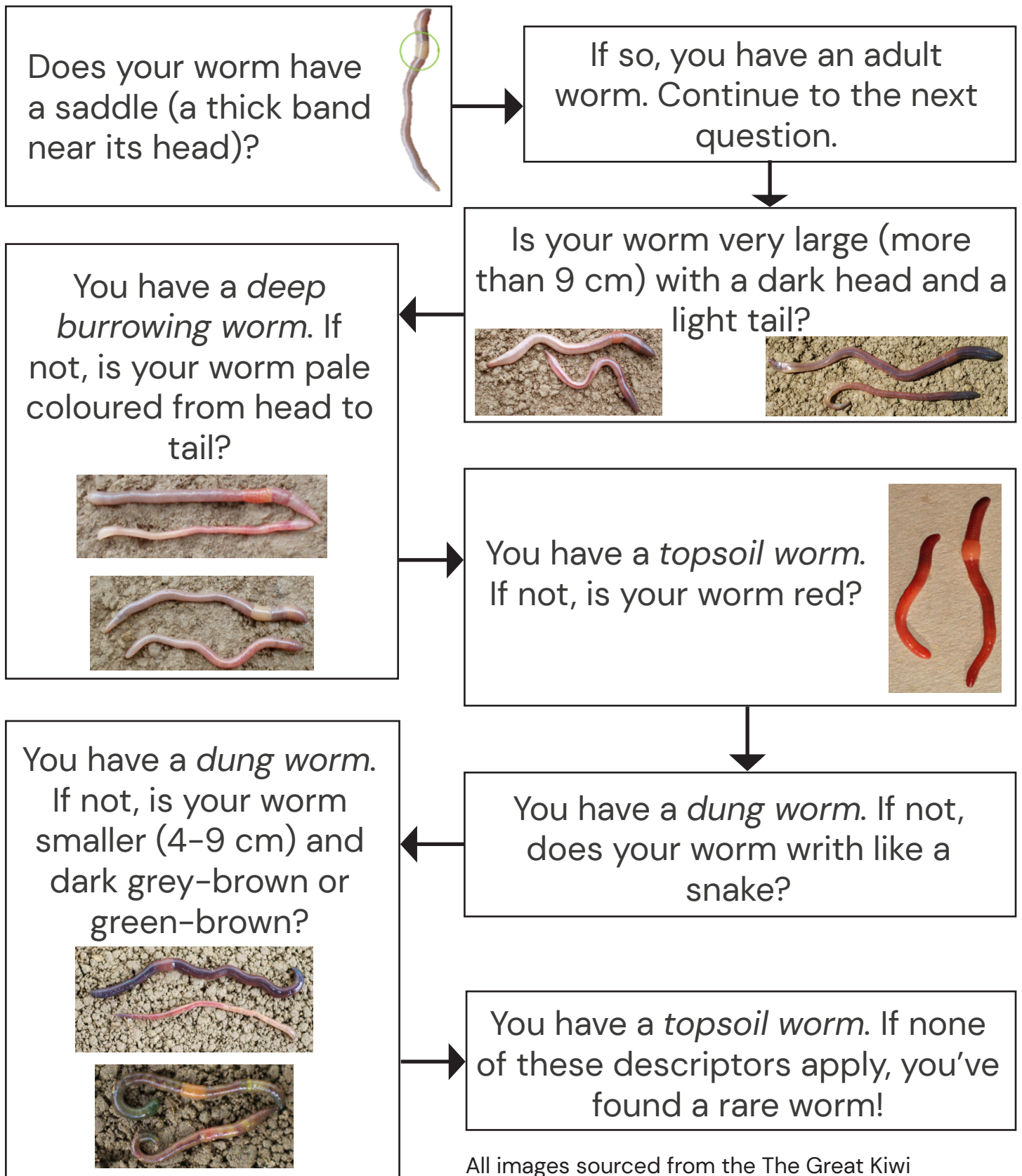
Earthworms have many positive impacts on soil, including increasing soil fertility, soil structure, the water holding capacity of soil, and aiding drainage. Some earthworms have been introduced to New Zealand, so their distribution can be patchy. Use this test to assess your worms.

During your wet season, **collect a 20 cm by 20 cm by 30 cm deep soil sample**. Gently, **crumble your sample** to find worms. Pay particular attention to plant roots. **Place the worms in a bowl of water**; this will help them stay wet as you work. Next, **carefully identify your worms** using the questions on the back of this page to help. Ideally, you should have *more than 1 dung worm, more than 14 topsoil worms, and more than 1 deep burrowing worms*.

Find other tests and check out our work on our website:

soilsafe.auckland.ac.nz

What kind of worm do I have?



All images sourced from the The Great Kiwi Earthworm Survey.

If you want, you can report your results to The Great Kiwi Earthworm Survey at:

earthworms.nz