

Soil health: Earthworm survey.

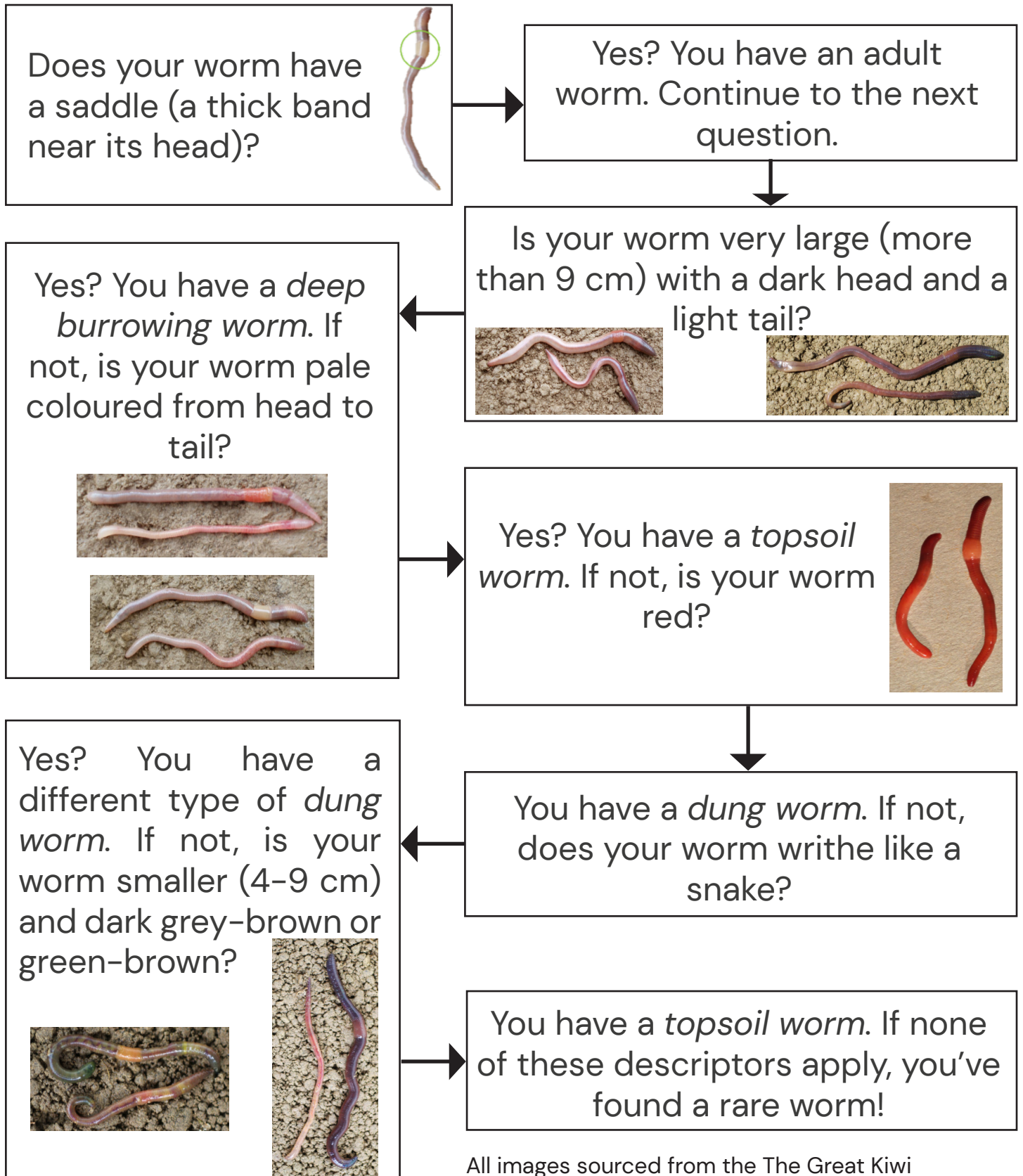
Earthworms have many positive impacts on soil, including increasing soil fertility, soil structure, the amount of water soil can hold, and aiding drainage. Earthworms can be an indicator of soil health, where more worms usually means healthier soil. Use this test to assess your worms.

During your wet season, **collect a 20cm x 20cm x 30cm 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