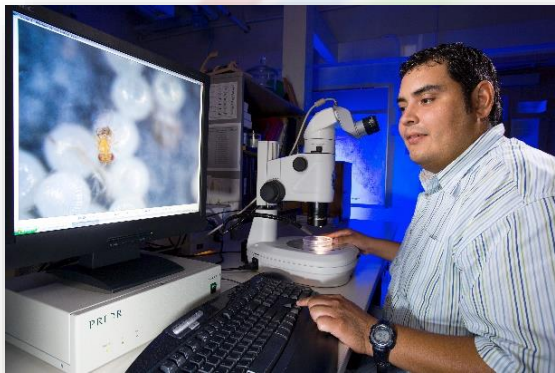


Overview of NAPPO RSPM 12

Guidelines for Petition for First Release of Non-Indigenous Entomophagous Biological Control Agents

Purpose: Biological control programs prevent or manage agricultural and environmental losses by using natural enemies (e.g., predators, parasitoids, or pathogens) to suppress pest populations. Before releasing a **non-native or imported** biological control agent (BCA) that affects insect or mite pests (entomophagous), all potential ecological and economic impacts must be carefully assessed. This information must then be provided to the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of the country of release before the first release of the BCA is approved.

Contents: The body of RSPM 12 identifies the information that should be contained in a petition for 1st release of a non-native entomophagous BCA into a NAPPO member country. **Appendix 1** of RSPM 12 contains a standardized petition format.



Summary of RSPM 12: The petition for 1st release of an entomophagous BCA should include information on:

i) the purpose of the proposed action, including the purpose and need for the release; the rationale for choosing the BCA; the location of the containment facility; the timing and location of the release; the agencies involved in release and monitoring; **ii) the target pest**, including unambiguous identification; vulnerable life stages; economic impacts (both positive and potentially negative), biology, reproductive potential, global distribution; ecologically or economically important species related to the target pest; **iii) the BCA**, including unambiguous identification; location of reference

specimens; expected attainable range in North America; source of the BCA; reproductive potential and damage inflicted on the target pest; history of past use; procedures for handling the BCA in containment; **iv) host-specificity testing**, including information to ensure that the BCA will impact only the target pest; laboratory tests (e.g., offspring survival, sex ratio, fecundity) and/or field surveys from the area of origin on non-target species (e.g., closely related, rare, endangered, or beneficial insects); **v) environmental and economic impacts** including impacts of the BCA on humans, other vertebrates, the target pest, non-target species; threatened or endangered species, the environment; expected benefits of releasing the BCA (e.g., reduced pesticide use and other pest control methods, reduced agricultural and environmental predation by the target pest); contingency plan to mitigate undesired impacts; **vi) post-release monitoring plan** including establishment and spread of the BCA; distributions and densities of the BCA and target pest over time; impact on non-target species; and **vii) pre-release compliance information**, including the location and timing of the 1st release; clearly labelled reference specimens of the BCA suitable for DNA extraction deposited in the national collection of the permitting country.

Please read RSPM 12 for a more complete description of the guidelines for preparing a petition for the 1st release of non-native entomophagous BCA into a NAPPO member.

Photo by Peggy Greb <https://www.ars.usda.gov/oc/images/photos/nov08/d1286-1/>