



PPQ Permitting Requirements for Biocontrol of Weeds

Robert S. Johnson, Chief

Evaluation and Permitting of Regulated Organisms & Soil

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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Topics

- PPQ Permitting Authorities and Requirements
- Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Function
- Test Plant List Petition Recommendations



USDA APHIS PPQ Authorities

- Plant Protection Act as Amended, 2000
- Code of Federal Regulations
 - 7 CFR 300
 - Importation
 - Interstate movement



PPQ Permitting Requirements

- First Time Environmental Release
 - TAG Petition: Host Test Plant List
 - TAG Petition: Environmental Release
 - TAG Recommendation: Release
 - Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact
 - Endangered Species Act Section 7 effect determination
 - No effect
 - Not likely to adversely affect
 - Native American Tribal Review

General procedure and time line for issuing a permit to import a biological control agent into containment.

Step	Range
Review application for completeness	1 week
Inspect containment facility and determine if facility is adequate	4-8 weeks
Evaluate pest risk and prepare draft permit	2-4 weeks
Review by State Plant Regulatory Official	1-4 weeks
Review by applicant	1-4 weeks
Issue permit	1 week
Total	10-22 weeks

General procedure and time line to issue a permit for releasing a nonindigenous biological control into the environment.

Step	Range
Review application for completeness	1 week
Draft EA, publish in FR, and issue FONSI	6-12 months
Evaluate pest risk and prepare draft permit	2-4 weeks
Review by State Plant Regulatory Official	1-4 weeks
Review by applicant	1-4 weeks
Issue permit	1 week
Total	9.5-15.5 months



TAG Function

- Transparency
 - Neighboring Countries
 - Partner Agencies
 - Native American Tribes
- Objective and Independent
 - Evaluation
 - Recommendation
- Information for environmental documents
 - Environmental Assessment
 - Biological evaluation for T&E species



Test Plant List Recommendations

- A phylogenetic approach where closely related species are hypothesized to be at greater risk than distantly related species.
- Systematic categorical assessment



Category 1: Target

- Genetic types of the target weed species (varieties, races, forms, genotypes, apomicts, etc.) found in North America.



Category 2: Closely Related

- Species in the same genus as the target weed, divided by subgenera (if applicable).
 - Include information on economically and environmentally important plants in North America.



Category 3: Intermediate

- Species in other genera in the same family as the target weed, divided by subfamily (if applicable).
 - Include information on economically and environmentally important plants in North America.



Category 4: Legally Significant

- Threatened and endangered species in the same family as the target weed divided by subgenus, genus, and subfamily.
 - Include all threatened and endangered species in the genus of the target weed.



Category 5: Intermediate/Distant

- Species in other families in the same order that have some phylogenetic, morphological, or biochemical similarities to the target weed.
 - Include information on economically and environmentally important plants of North America.



Category 6: Distantly Related

- Species in other orders that have some morphological or biochemical similarities to the target weed or that share the same habitat.
 - Include information on economically and environmentally important plants of North America.



Category 7: Ecologically Related

- Any plant on which the biological control agent or its close relatives (within the same genus) have been previously found or recorded to feed and/or reproduce.



Thank You WSWS!

Questions?