

Overview of NAPPO RSPM 29

Guidelines for the Petition for Import and Release of Non-*Apis* Pollinating Insects into NAPPO Countries

Purpose: The purpose of this standard is to provide guidelines for the initial importation and release of non-*Apis* pollinating insects into a NAPPO member country. *Apis* bee species, including honeybees, are not covered by this standard. Use of a standardized petition will assist national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) to assess risks of pollinator importation and release. These risks may include the introduction of new pests or other economic and environmental impacts.

Contents: The body of the standard addresses general and specific requirements for introduction and release of non-*Apis* pollinators. **Appendix 1** contains a recommended template for the petition to import and release a non-*Apis* pollinator.



Summary of RSPM 29: Importation of non-*Apis* pollinators should only be approved following appropriate review and assessment. The following information should be included in the petition.

--*Information on the proposed action* including the purpose and need for the release, the species and country of production/laboratory rearing, and description and location of the proposed release.

--*Information on target crops* including taxonomy, economic impact, and distribution.

--*Pollinator information*, including taxonomy, identification methods, geographic range, reproductive potential, history of past use, pollinator pathogens, and methods to detect and eliminate these prior to release.

--*Information on the region where the pollinator is produced*, including potential pollinator pathogens, description of the rearing facility, and pollinator handling and disease management.

--*Environmental and economic impacts of the proposed release*, including benefits vs. costs of proposed release; known impacts on humans and other vertebrates; possible impacts on target plants, non-target plants, and wild relatives; pests (and pathogens) with cross-infectivity between proposed

pollinator and native pollinators; and impacts on threatened and endangered species.

--*Post-release monitoring information*, including a comparison of predicted and observed behaviors of imported pollinators; pollinator establishment; changes in pollination levels; and observed impacts on non-target species.

--*Pre-release compliance requirements*, including that reference specimens must be deposited in the national collection of the permitting country, and information on planned location and timing of first release must be provided to the NPPO.

Appendix 1 - Recommended Template for Petitions, provides a format for organizing and presenting the required information covered in the body of the standard.

Please read RSPM 29 for complete guidance on preparing a petition for importation and first release of a non-*Apis* pollinating insect.

Photo by Leah Lewis. <https://www.ars.usda.gov/oc/images/photos/aug11/d2233-1/>