

**Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact  
for  
Field Release of *Ganaspis brasiliensis* (Hymenoptera: Figitidae) for Biological Control of  
Spotted-wing Drosophila, *Drosophila suzukii* (Diptera: Drosophilidae), in the Contiguous  
United States  
August 2021**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to issue permits for release of the G1-lineage of *Ganaspis brasiliensis* (Hymenoptera: Figitidae). This insect would be used by the permit applicant for biological control of spotted-wing drosophila (SWD) in the contiguous United States. Before permits are issued for release of *G. brasiliensis*, APHIS must analyze the potential impacts of its release into the contiguous United States in accordance with USDA, APHIS National Environmental Policy Act implementing regulations (7 Code of Federal Regulations Part 372). APHIS has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes the potential environmental consequences of this action. The EA is available from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
Pests, Pathogens, and Biocontrol Permits  
4700 River Road, Unit 133  
Riverdale, MD 20737

[USDA APHIS | Plant Health Environmental Assessments](#)

The EA analyzed the following two alternatives in response to a request for a permit authorizing environmental release of *G. brasiliensis*: (1) no action, and (2) issue permits for the release of *G. brasiliensis* for biological control of SWD. A third alternative, to issue permits with special provisions or requirements concerning release procedures or mitigating measures, was considered. However, this alternative was dismissed because no issues were raised that indicated that special provisions or requirements were necessary. The No Action alternative, as described in the EA, would likely result in the continued use at the current level of chemical and cultural control for the management of SWD. These control methods described are not alternatives for decisions to be made by APHIS, but are presently being used to control SWD in the United States and may continue regardless of permit issuance for field release of the G1-lineage of *G. brasiliensis*. Notice of this EA was made available in the Federal Register on July 16, 2021 for a 30-day public comment period. Six comments were received on the EA by the close of the comment period. All six comments were in support of the environmental release of *G. brasiliensis*.

I have decided to authorize APHIS to issue permits for the environmental release of the G1-lineage of *G. brasiliensis*. The reasons for my decision are:

- The G1-lineage of *G. brasiliensis* is sufficiently host specific and poses little, if any, threat to the biological resources, including non-target insect species, of the contiguous United States.

- The G1-lineage of *G. brasiliensis* will have no effect on federally listed threatened and endangered species or their critical habitats in the contiguous United States.
- The G1-lineage of *G. brasiliensis* poses no threat to the health of humans or animals.
- No negative cumulative impacts are expected from release of the G1-lineage of *G. brasiliensis*.
- There are no disproportionate adverse effects to minorities, low-income populations, or children in accordance with Executive Order 12898 “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations”, Executive Order 13985 “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government” and Executive Order 13045, “Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks.”
- While there is not total assurance that the release of the G1-lineage of *G. brasiliensis* into the environment will be reversible, there is no evidence that this organism will cause any adverse environmental effects.

I have determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the action alternative and, therefore, no Environmental Impact Statement needs to be prepared.

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Steven Crook, Director  
Permitting and Compliance Coordination  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

August 24, 2021

Date