

Breadcrumb

1. [Home](#)
2. Print
3. Pdf
4. Node
5. Entity Print

# Availability of Final Environmental Assessment for a Biological Control Agent of Olive Psyllid

[Print](#)

## Stakeholder Announcement

Contacts:

[APHISPress@usda.gov](mailto:APHISPress@usda.gov)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has prepared a final environmental assessment (EA) that addresses the environmental impacts of releasing the insect *Psyllaephagus euphyllurae* to biologically control olive psyllid (*Euphyllurae olivina*) in the contiguous United States. After careful analysis, APHIS has determined that the release of this control agent within the continental United States will likely not have a significant impact on the environment.

The olive psyllid is native to southern Europe and was first detected in California in 2007. The pest feeds exclusively on the blossoms and growing tissue of olive plants and can diminish fruit production by as much as 60 percent in some parts of the Mediterranean Basin. Releasing *P. euphyllurae* will reduce olive psyllid's presence in California. This small and stingless wasp poses no risk to humans, livestock, or wildlife. It feeds exclusively on the invasive olive psyllid. Biological control is a useful management strategy for an invasive pest whenever effective natural enemies are

not present in an invasive insect's new environment. APHIS plans to issue permits for *P. euphyllurae* to reduce the severity of damage to olive crops from the invasive olive psyllid in California.

APHIS has reviewed and considered all public input submitted during the comment period and used the information to complete the final EA. APHIS is issuing permits for the release of *P. euphyllurae* into the contiguous United States for the biological control of the olive psyllid. Members of the public can review the final EA by visiting [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and entering APHIS-2022-0015 in the Search field.

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.