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# APHIS Issues Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for Erythrina Gall Wasp Biological Control

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has issued an environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for releasing *Aprostocetus nitens* in Hawaii. This stingless parasitic wasp is a biological control agent intended to help manage the *Erythrina* gall wasp (*Quadrastichus erythrinae*), a pest that has severely impacted *Erythrina* trees across the State. After careful analysis, APHIS determined that releasing *A. nitens* will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment in Hawaii.

*Erythrina* gall wasp was first detected on Oahu in 2005 and quickly spread across Hawaii. This invasive insect attacks *Erythrina* species, including the native wiliwili tree (*Erythrina sandwicensis*), an important component of Hawaii's lowland dry forests. The pest has caused extensive leaf damage and the loss of thousands of *Erythrina* trees statewide.

APHIS will begin reviewing permit applications for the environmental release of *A. nitens* in Hawaii. Each permit application includes a consultation period with the affected State before APHIS makes a final decision.

The EA and FONSI are available for public review at [National Environmental Policy Act Documents: Plant Protection and Quarantine](#).

For more information, send an email to [ppqbiocontrol@usda.gov](mailto:ppqbiocontrol@usda.gov) and include "*Aprostocetus nitens*" in the subject line.