APHIS Seeks Input on the Proposed Release of *Apanteles opuntiarum* for Biological Control of the Cactus Moth (*Cactoblastis cactorum*)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is reviewing a request to release *Apanteles opuntiarum*, a parasitoid wasp, to control the invasive cactus moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum*. The cactus moth poses a serious threat to native *Opuntia* cactus species in the United States.

APHIS has posted a summary of the request on the Stakeholder Consultation for Proposed Environmental Release of Novel Biological Control Agents web page for a 30-day public review period, ending on October 10, 2026. We are requesting input on the potential release of *Apanteles opuntiarum* to control *Cactoblastis cactorum*. Please submit scientific and technical information that can support APHIS' decision making to ppqbiocontrol@usda.gov and include *Apanteles opuntiarum* in the subject line. Any information received will be considered and may result in changes to the proposed release.