

## BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGAINST THE INVASIVE COMSTOCK MEALYBUG IN THE SWISS ORCHARDS

Locations	Switzerland
Dates	01/04/2020 - 31/03/2023
Summary	A new invasive pest of particular concern to Switzerland's orchard industry is the Comstock mealybug, <i>Pseudococcus comstocki</i> . Originating from Asia, the Comstock mealybug was first detected in 2016 in fruit crops of the Swiss canton of Valais. Following its detection, the mealybug has caused significant local economic damage to apricot, pear and apple production, especially during 2018 and 2019. Chemical control is one way of helping to fight the pest but it has produced mixed, and often, insufficient results. Biological control is another method and this project, therefore, aims to develop a sustainable and environmentally friendly, biological control method for the Comstock mealybug.
The problem	The rise in international trade as well as global warming has recently increased the frequency of the introduction, and dissemination, of invasive species which



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