

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL: LESSONS FROM THE TRENCHES

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, I cover some of the major lessons of biological control through the introduction of natural enemies. I focus on the themes of length of time to a solution, the degree of suppression common once a biological control solution is reached, the amount of human effort (scientist-years) that is necessary to produce a solution, and the monetary cost of such a solution. I then apply these ideas to analyze three current projects on biological control of three different whitefly species. Each project is in a different state of development, and each has taken a different course to reach its current stage. One is completely finished, with 10 years of follow-up data available; one is in the midst of distribution and evaluation of natural enemies; and one is in the beginning stages of initial natural enemy colonization.