

Reports & Regulations on Pollinators

Honey Bee Health Report by USDA and EPA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a comprehensive scientific report on honey bee health on May 2, 2013. The report states that there are multiple factors playing a role in honey bee colony declines, including parasites and disease, genetics, poor nutrition and pesticide exposure.

The two agencies jointly released the report by a National Stakeholders Conference on Honey Bee Health that convened in October, 2012. The conference was developed by federal researchers and managers, along with Pennsylvania State University. It was convened to synthesize the current state of knowledge regarding the primary factors that scientists believe have the greatest impact on managed bee health.

Honey Bee Decline

- Parasites & Diseases
- Genetics
- Poor Nutrition
- Pesticide Exposure

To view the report, which represents the consensus of the scientific community studying honey bees, visit: <http://www.usda.gov/documents/ReportHoneyBeeHealth.pdf>. (Modified from an EPA and USDA Press Release)

Since these reports, scientific opinion has not changed appreciably on the causes of CCD and the general decline of pollinators.

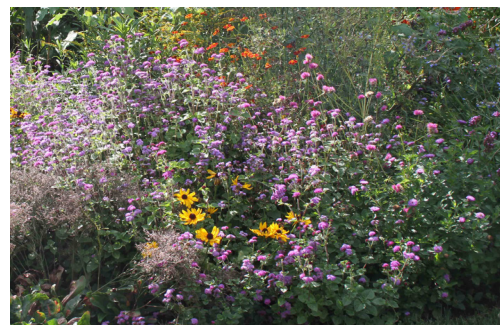
European Union Neonicotinoid Moratorium

The European Union implemented a two-year moratorium starting in December 2013 on the use of the neonicotinoid insecticides imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam on flowering crops, restricting their use to only after flowering. A report analyzing the impact to bees during the moratorium is to be released in February 2018. France stopped the use of neonicotinoids in 1999 and still has Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).



Pollinator Protection Plans

President Obama issued a directive in June 2014 directing federal agencies to work together to protect pollinators. An action plan was submitted to the White House in December 2014 which primarily involved habitat protection. Pollinator protection plans are required from EPA and other agencies. State specific pollinator plans in concert with growers and other stakeholders have been developed by several states, but is yet to be released by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.




EPA Pesticide Label Changes

EPA pesticide label warnings on neonicotinoid insecticides were implemented in 2013. The Protection of Pollinators warning box as shown below is on the labels for other insecticides acutely toxic to bees. EPA is conducting an in-depth review of neonicotinoid insecticides which is scheduled for completion in 2018.



PROTECTION OF POLLINATORS

APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS EXIST FOR THIS PRODUCT BECAUSE OF RISK TO BEES AND OTHER INSECT POLLINATORS. FOLLOW APPLICATION RESTRICTIONS FOUND IN THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE TO PROTECT POLLINATORS.

Look for the bee hazard icon  in the Directions for Use for each application site for specific use restrictions and instructions to protect bees and other insect pollinators.

This product can kill bees and other insect pollinators

Bees and other insect pollinators will forage on plants when they flower, shed pollen, or produce nectar.

Bees and other insect pollinators can be exposed to this pesticide from:

- o Direct contact during foliar applications, or contact with residues on plant surfaces after foliar applications
- o Ingestion of residues in nectar and pollen when the pesticide is applied as a seed treatment, soil, tree injection, as well as foliar applications.

When Using This Product Take Steps To:

- o Minimize exposure of this product to bees and other insect pollinators when they are foraging on pollinator attractive plants around the application site.
- o Minimize drift of this product on to beehives or to off-site pollinator attractive habitat. Drift of this product onto beehives or off-site to pollinator attractive habitat can result in bee kills.

Information on protecting bees and other insect pollinators may be found at the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship website at: <http://pesticidestewardship.org/PollinatorProtection/Pages/default.aspx>.

Pesticide incidents (for example, bee kills) should immediately be reported to the state/tribal lead agency. For contact information for your state, go to: www.aapco.org/officials.html. Pesticide incidents should also be reported to the National Pesticide Information Center at: www.npic.orst.edu or directly to EPA at: beekill@epa.gov

January 2018: Phil Nixon, Entomologist, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

