

MAKE YOUR YARD SAFE FOR BEES

Bees and other pollinators are essential for over one-third of the food crops humans eat every day – and bees are dying in unprecedented numbers.

SYSTEMIC PESTICIDES are killing bees. If you see any of the following ingredients listed on products in your home or local garden center, do not use them.

Acetamiprid	Nitenpyram
Clothianidin	Nithiazine
Cyantraniliprole	Sulfoxaflor
Dinotefuran	Thiacloprid
Imidacloprid	Thiamethoxam

SYSTEMICS – which include a class of chemical called NEONICOTINOIDS - are the most widely used pesticides in the world and they are in many common products at your local hardware, garden stores and big chain stores.

Even at doses that won't outright kill bees, these chemicals weaken bee immune systems and impair critical brain functions, making it hard for them to find food sources or their hives and leaving them vulnerable to pests and disease. SYSTEMICS persist in the soil and plants, continuing to poison bees and other pollinators for months, maybe years, to come. They permeate the entire plant, including the pollen, nectar and dew that bees eat. And they can't be washed off.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finally joined with most European Nations in admitting that these chemicals are one primary cause of the decline of the honeybee and other pollinator populations.

Even if you are careful to avoid these products, you may be unknowingly bringing SYSTEMICS into your yard by buying contaminated plants and seeds. Plants are often treated at the growers before they reach the stores. Big box stores and nurseries are changing their policies to eliminate them, but for now, no one might even know which ones are treated. EVEN BEE-ATTRACTING PLANTS CAN BE TREATED WITH BEE-KILLING PESTICIDES. Now, isn't that a shame?



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Read labels carefully and avoid all products that contain these chemicals or say they are SYSTEMIC. Google "products containing neonicotinoids" for more information. The *Center for Food Safety* has a good one!
- Ask your nursery to label, or even better, remove all products that contain these chemicals. Tell them you are worried about the bees!
- Ask your local nursery which plants they've grown themselves, what products they use and how to identify safe plants. Buy organic when possible.
- Educate yourself on any bee-safe plant brands at nurseries and big box stores (if any).
- Support nurseries that are taking these bee-protecting measures! Tell friends and neighbors.
- Check with your lawn or tree service to be sure they aren't using products containing SYSTEMICS.
- Plant (safely-grown) bee-attracting plants.
- Talk to neighbors about eliminating SYSTEMICS and buying untreated plants to make a bee safe neighborhood.
- Start your favorite plants from (organic or untreated) seeds. Share and trade cuttings from mature plants instead of buying new ones.
- Subscribe to organizations such as *Organic Consumer Association* or *Friends of the Earth-Bee Action* to receive updates and sign petitions.
- Get a "Pollinator Habitat" sign and read scientific articles at *Xerces Society*.
- Forward this flyer to friends, family, neighbors, churches and community groups. THANK YOU.

Helpful Links:

www.xerces.org

www.centerforfoodsafety.org

www.beeaction.org

www.livingsystemsinst.org