

Green Jihad

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UK temporarily lifts ban on “neonic” pesticides

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The government of Great Britain [has announced](#) that in some areas of the country it will be briefly legal for neonicotinoid pesticides to be used. According to BBC, the decision comes after British farmers made a second plea for relief due to the ban affecting their canola crop yields. The environmentalist group Friends of the Earth is furious calling the decision to lift the ban *scandalous* and that the pesticides *should have no place in our fields and gardens*. Where the farmers can use the pesticides has not yet been determined but the restriction was lifted for four months use on 5% of Britain’s canola (aka rapeseed) crops or 116 miles of land.

While it welcomes the UK Government’s decision, the National Farmer’s Union (NFU) whom lobbied for relief from the ban states it maybe too little too late. *It is very nip and tuck. There is a lead time involved for the farmer. They will have to get hold of the seed, have to treat it, and have to apply it. For some it will come too late. For others, they fall outside the area, which is mainly in the east of England.* NFU representative Dr. Chris Hatfield said.

The UK’s Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs gave the thumbs up on neonic pesticide ban relief for British farmers after a committee for the agency and its chief scientist stated they approved of limited use. However, biodiversity and ecosystem services research fellow at the University of Cambridge Dr. Lynn Dicks did caution of the risks of pesticide ban relief stating there was evidence that neon’s do negatively affect bees and suggested farmers be paid by Bayer and Syngenta to monitor bee populations.

What is actually happening is that bees are shifting locations and not necessarily dying from neonic pesticides. Neonicotinoids do contribute to bee deaths, but it is not the primary cause of bee population reductions. At the end of March of this year, the *UK Daily Mail* reported that a study out of Reading University suggests that [bees prefer habitats in the city](#) and not rural areas

as originally thought. This due in large part to expanded use of rural areas for crop production that has resulted in fewer food sources for bees.

The fact that Friends of the Earth reeled against temporarily lifting the British pesticide ban is all the more reason to cheer. Hopefully neonic pesticides will be fully legal soon as it looks like Britain over reacted. Environmentalists hate human beings and the best way to speed up the demise of the human race is to attack the one thing that helps sustain and enhance human populations: our food supply. Rid the planet of pesticides and the result is lower food crop production since farms that grow fruits and vegetables have a harder time preventing insects from consuming crop yields. This, in turn, results in reduced crop production which leads to hunger, starvation, and ultimately death.