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Groups Tell Canadian Regulators to Reject Bee-Killing Pesticide

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Washington, DC--(ENEWSPF)--November 7, 2014. Environmental organizations are calling on the Canadian government to reject the approval of yet another bee-killing pesticide called flupyradifurone. According to **Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)** –responsible for regulating pesticides in Canada– the new pesticide exhibits systemic behavior and “may pose a risk to bees, non-target beneficial arthropods, and freshwater and saltwater invertebrates when used for foliar application.” Additionally, the pesticide “may pose a risk to birds and small wild mammals when used for soybean seed treatment.” Environmentalists say approval of flupyradifurone would be irresponsible of PMRA because it would allow yet another chemical with a high potential hazard to bee health into the environment.

Environmental groups, including Sierra Club Canada Foundation, David Suzuki Foundation, Pollination Canada, National Farmers Union, Friends of the Earth, and Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, have been vocal in expressing their concern about flupyradifurone:

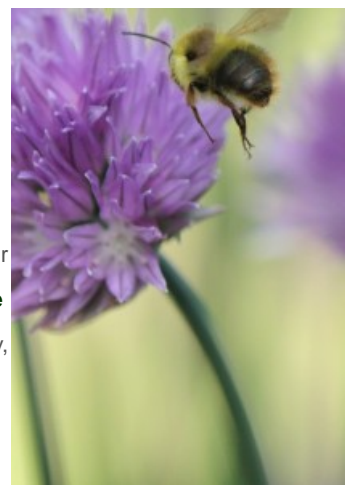
“Health Canada has admitted the use of neonicotinoid pesticides threatens bees and other pollinators and has promised a review, but meanwhile wants to open the door to its chemical cousin. Is the government taking the threat of systemic pesticides seriously?” said Lisa Gue, a researcher and analyst at David Suzuki Foundation.

Karen Eatwell, President of National Farmers Union – Ontario, stated, “Scientists have called for a global phase-out of neonics. The last thing we need is another systemic pesticide contaminating the environment.”

Produced by Bayer CropScience, flupyradifurone is an insecticide that is part of a class of chemicals known as butenolides. Like neonicotinoid insecticides, which have been **increasingly linked** to bee declines around the world, flupyradifurone is a systemic chemical that is taken up by the plant and moves through its tissues into pollen, nectar, and guttation droplets and interferes with the nerve function of exposed insects. **Sulfoxaflor**, another controversial chemical, shares the same mode of action as flupyradifurone and neonicotinoids. Environmental and farm groups, including Beyond Pesticides, came together last year to file a **legal brief** in support of the nation's major beekeeping associations' lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), requesting that a federal court vacate EPA's decision to register sulfoxaflor, which is also highly toxic to bees.



With a growing body of scientific literature pointing to neonicotinoid use as the prime factor in bee declines, critics are no longer mincing words over the continued use of these and other bee-killing pesticides. Recently, Ontario Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller **stated**, "All the science is not done, but everything that I have before me ... suggests to me that this is the biggest threat to the structure and ecological integrity of the ecosystem that I have ever encountered in my life, bigger than DDT," on the release of his report titled, **The Annual Report of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario**. Additionally, in September 2013, PMRA's **interim report** concluded that neonicotinoid contaminated dust had likely caused severe bee mortality in Ontario and Quebec in 2012 and 2013.



Neonicotinoids are chemically similar to nicotine and are pesticides that are toxic to a broad range of insect pests. As a result of neonicotinoids' systemic nature, **pre-treatment practices**, and other factors these dangerous pesticides **have been linked to the global disappearance of honey bees and other non-target organisms**, such as earthworms, birds, and aquatic invertebrates.

The plight of bees and other pollinators is an important one for all to be concerned. One third of the foods we eat are dependent on pollination services, which contribute \$20-30 billion to the agricultural economy. The reliance on toxic, systemic inputs that dominate our agricultural systems and how we manage pests is being found to have more environmental costs than benefits.

Take Action: Beyond Pesticides' BEE Protective campaign has all the educational tools you need to stand up for pollinators. Some specific ways you can help are:

- Join us **in asking Lowe's and Home Depot** and other leading garden centers to take action and stop the sale of neonicotinoids and plants treated with these chemicals.
- **Tell your member of Congress** to support the **Save America's Pollinators Act**.
- Sign the **Pesticide Free Zone Declaration** and pledge to maintain your yard, park, garden or other green space as organically managed and pollinator friendly.
- Use our **model resolution** to transform your community and raise awareness about pollinator health.

Sources: **The Epoch Times**, **Health Canada**, <http://www.beyondpesticides.org>

Photo Source: Gina H, WA

All unattributed positions and opinions in this piece are those of Beyond Pesticides



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**Norah G Fon**

NORAHG RESPONDS AGAINST BEE CONSPIRACY TERRORISTS LIKE SUZUKI & SIERRA (A.K.A. NATIONAL FARMERS UNION)

Bee conspiracy terrorists are alarming and mis-informing the public with false allegations concerning neonicotinoid insecticides ! Just like they did with the so-called global warming issue, which has now been debunked. Overall, neonicotinoid insecticides do not harm bees. If these bee conspiracy terrorists were not so scientifically illiterate, they would know that scientific research shows that, as reported through EPA's and Health Canada's vast toxicology database, no harm will occur to bees. The alleged losses of bees are, in fact, the fault of the bee-keepers and their mis-management practices. They are responsible, and not neonicotinoid insecticides. Anti-neonicotinoid prohibition will not save bees since harming bees with these insecticides is a myth ! Neonicotinoid insecticides cause no harm, and do not harm bees. In fact, researchers have not identified a single cause of over-wintering honeybee losses and colony collapse disorder. Under normal field use of neonicotinoid insecticides, the exposure to bees is at very low levels, far too low to cause harmful effects. There is no evidence to suggest a link between neonicotinoid insecticides and bee colony collapse disorder. Overall, so-called links and causes between bee colony collapse disorder and neonicotinoid insecticides are mere myths ! The weight of the scientific evidence clearly shows that neonicotinoid insecticides do not affect long-term colony health. Overall, neonicotinoid insecticides play a negligible role compared to diseases, viruses and loss of habitat. Most experts agree that, in recent years, bee colony collapse disorder is the result of a combination of factors, including parasitic mites and diseases. Recent scientific research points toward a combination of parasitic mites (specifically the varroa mite) and pathogens (such as nosema and viral diseases) as main factors. Although some neonicotinoid insecticides are toxic to bees upon direct contact (as are many insecticides), they are used in a way that minimizes any direct exposure to bees, such as seed treatment. Seed treatment insecticides have been used for a decade with almost no incidences of negative impacts on bees by minimizing potential exposures of non-target insects such as bees. Independent, long-term, controlled field tests have repeatedly shown no effects on bee losses, weight gain, worker longevity, brood development, honey yield, and over-winter survival relative to bees in areas where treated seed was not used. If we had less conventional neonicotinoid use in the environment, we would still have bee colony collapse disorder, because many bee-keepers are not competent to manage their hives. Prohibition will not save bees. <http://tinyurl.com/pxqzh6m> For the whole truth regarding BEES, go to The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6WJ> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2BA> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6H8> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7ty> NORAHG is the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to destroy the Green space and other industries. WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G Get the latest details at <http://pesticidettruths.com/> <http://pesticidettruths.com/toc/> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr> <https://www.facebook.com/norah.gfon>

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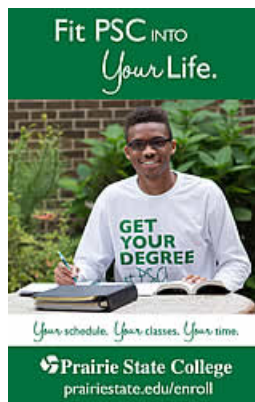
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