



Bee group hails call for pesticide ban

[BILL POWER BUSINESS REPORTER](#)

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Scientists seek to block use of two substances connected to insect deaths



A bee lands on a flower as it pollinates flowers in a garden in Chelsea, Que., Wednesday. Pesticides linked to bee deaths have become a major issue in the agriculture industry, says a Nova Scotia horticultural specialist. (THE CANADIAN PRESS)

A call from a group of scientists for a ban on two pesticides linked to dead bees created quite a buzz in Nova Scotia on Wednesday.

Any news is good when it comes to restrictions on insect-killing pesticides, said Joe Goetz, president of the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association.

“In Nova Scotia, we are particularly concerned about the long-term implications of these commonly used pesticides,” Goetz, a Windsor Forks beekeeper, said in an interview.

“Anything that threatens the honey bee population is an issue in a province that is short by about 14,000 hives.”

An advance report from 50 scientists collaborating around the world provided evidence of mass deaths of bees and butterflies linked to neonicotinoids and fipronil.

Members of the Task Force on Systematic Pesticides also flagged a wide range of other environmental concerns linked to the pesticides and called for a gradual phase-out during a news conference in Ottawa.

Healthy and vibrant bee populations and their pollinating activities are critical in agriculture.

“We’re very interested in building up the pollination side of the beekeeping industry in this province and want to keep risks to the bee population to a minimum,” Goetz said.

He said Nova Scotia can build an industry worth more than \$4 million annually if the number of hives grows to meet provincial demand.

“Money is pouring out of our province when we’re importing bees for agriculture use, such as blueberries.”

Peter Burgess, a horticultural specialist with **Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc.** in Bible Hill, said use of the pesticides is a major issue in the Ontario agriculture industry.

In that province, they are applied on vast farm fields dedicated specifically to corn and soybean, presenting a greater risk to bee populations. Nova Scotia has smaller farms with greater crop variations, he said.

Various versions of the pesticides are readily available throughout Nova Scotia and they are used regularly in the agriculture industry here, but not to the extent they are used in Ontario and the United States.

“There are many variations of these pesticides and they have many different uses,” Burgess said. “It isn’t likely we’ll see an outright ban any time soon as they fulfil a critical need in agriculture.”

Environmental groups in Canada have lobbied for years against the use of the neonicotinoids class of pesticides, which are often referred to as “neonics.”

The David Suzuki Foundation said in a news release Wednesday that neonics are sometimes used in lawn care products sold in Canada, but the news release did not include any particular brand names.

With The Canadian Press



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[Norah G Fon](#) • [22 minutes ago](#) Hold on, this is waiting to be approved by Halifax Herald.

NORAHG RESPONDS TO FRAUDULENT USE OF NON-EXPERT IUCN REPORT

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is deceiving the public about neonicotinoid insecticides. IUCN’s reckless and arbitrary demands to prohibit against neonicotinoid insecticides will not resolve so-called bee colony collapse disorder, and will not help bee-keepers with their pest problems. The fraudulent misuse of the non-expert IUCN report is designed to alarm and enrage the public into arriving at inappropriate conclusions about neonicotinoid insecticides. The non-expert IUCN report concocts the story that there is some kind of bee crisis. There is no bee crisis. Clearly, the principal mandate of IUCN has been to attract more members, more donations, and more profit by scamming the public with the concoction of fraudulent lies and imaginary

danger about neonicotinoid insecticides. There is a growing and conclusive body of evidence about IUCN squandering and misappropriating its public donations on subversive and partisan anti-pesticide conspiracies. There is also conclusive evidence that IUCN is interfering with partisan politics, and is in violation of taxation laws in several jurisdictions. Consequently, IUCN does not deserve any donations or support. Nor does it deserve a charity tax-exempt status. Scientific research shows, as reported through EPA's and Health Canada's vast scientific database, that no harm will occur to bees when neonicotinoid insecticides are used properly. There is no bee crisis. Science and statistics do not support IUCN's reckless and arbitrary demands to prohibit against neonicotinoid insecticides. There are no IUCN activists who have any background, training, or education in matters concerning neonicotinoid insecticides. Any IUCN opinion is valueless and worthless. 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. The whole truth about neonicotinoid insecticides can be found on The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2BA> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6WJ> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6H8> The whole truth about IUCN can be found in the following report ... <http://wp.me/p1jq40-85q> NORAHG is the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to destroy the Green space industry. WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G. Get the latest details at The Pesticide Truths Web-Site <http://pesticidetruths.com/> and go to The Complete Library Of Web-Pages, Reports, & References <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr>

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[hhalifax](#) • [a day ago](#)

The greenies are 100% right here. We cannot take a risk with our honeybees. Our food security depends on it. Ban immediately and outright with staggering fines and jail terms for non-compliance, all known and POTENTIAL threats to the honeybee population.

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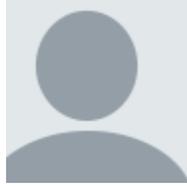
[Novanice](#) • [18 hours ago](#)

Long before colony collapse and Varoa mite issues in Nova Scotia, I was a farmer and registered Apiarist. I had 10 healthy hives and a longstanding interest in beekeeping.

The end of the story came when an herbicide cocktail of 2-4D and Roundup was sprayed on fields in close proximity to my hives. It left a gut-wrenching chemical stench through the next day. Within a few days most bees were dead. Those that survived the spray did not survive the winter. The correlation, if unscientific, seemed abundantly clear to me.

Roundup is still used across NS in the forestry industry to deter re-growth of hardwood following clear-cutting. This, despite the fact the so-called “safe” herbicide is clearly labelled “toxic” by the manufacturer- Monsanto. More than 20 years later, my persistent public condemnation of such herbicide use (misuse) still falls on deaf ears among those who put corporate greed ahead of public health and safety.

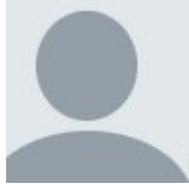
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[Norah G Fon Novanice](#) • [19 minutes ago](#) Hold on, this is waiting to be approved by Halifax Herald.

Your correlation is not only unscientific, it is unverifiable, valueless, and worthless. Here are some real facts about 2,4-D herbicide. 2,4-D has been used for the control of broad-leaved weeds in the urban landscape and agriculture since 1946. 2,4-D has a 65-year unblemished safety record regarding long-term risk to health. 2,4-D does not cause cancer. Both United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Health Canada conducted reviews of the scientific literature and concluded there was no evidence of a link between cancer and 2,4-D. According to EPA, 2,4-D is not classifiable as to human carcinogenicity. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6A7> According to the 2012 von Stackelberg study, there are highly implausible carcinogenic outcomes with 2,4-D. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-6iR> The World Health Organization lists 2,4-D in the same cancer-risk category as pickled vegetables and cell-phones. In other words, 2,4-D is less toxic than pickles. In fact ... 2,4-D is rated as practically non-toxic. It is less toxic than table salt, baking soda, Tylenol, and aspirin. 2,4-D is probably the most studied and best understood of any chemical ... not just pesticide ... in existence. It has been the subject of over 40,000 scientific studies. 2,4-D has been re-evaluated 17 times, and each time passing tougher scrutiny. 2,4-D herbicide does not contain harmful dioxins. 2,4-D is not Herbicide Orange (aka Agent Orange). 2,4-D is scientifically safe and causes no harm.

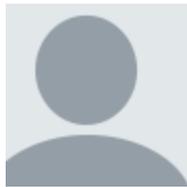
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[justin Novanice](#) • [17 hours ago](#)

Roundup is used extensively in all agriculture. So, to solve the bee issue our govt will ban all use of the chemicals for residential use, as they did with herbicides....while our farmers spray, spray, spray.

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[Novanice justin](#) • [15 hours ago](#)

Nonsense founded on ignorance; deserving no serious response.

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[justin Novanice](#) • [13 hours ago](#)

You must be one of the last harper federal scientists.
It may shock you but you maybe should investigate what golf courses and farmers are allowed to use to control weeds and insects. The ban on many products that the prov govt brought in a few years ago DOESN'T apply to them and they use it like there's no tomorrow.
Ignorance?.....roundup is a mainstay in the agricultural industry and golf courses.
Denial will only get you so far.

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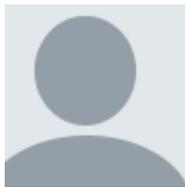
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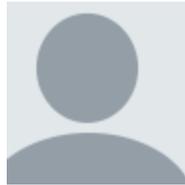
[Norah G Fon justin](#) • [15 minutes ago](#) Hold on, this is waiting to be approved by Halifax Herald.

Roundup, although scientifically safe, is NOT the mainstay of the golf industry.

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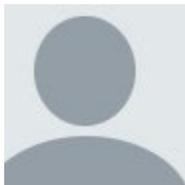


[Novanice justin](#) • [11 hours ago](#)

"...The ban on many products that the prov govt brought in a few years ago DOESN'T apply to them..."

Well, I'll give you an opportunity to shine: What products?

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ROUNDUP FOR ONE.....
.....Scott Turfbuilder+2.

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[daveburris](#) • [15 hours ago](#)

It would be nice to know how the link regarding neonicotinoids and fipronil was established, it sounds impressive, but then so did a lot of other scares we have been subject to over the years.

Mites and cold weather have also been found to ravage the bee colonies - "Parasites known as Varroa mites infest honey bee colonies, sucking blood from the bees and causing weight loss, deformities, diseases, and reduced lifespan. These mites.... now infest honey bee colonies across most of North America."

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/blogs...>

And cold weather in Britain - "The problem started earlier this year when Britain experienced its wettest spring on record. Despite good early spring nectar flows, the prolonged period of cold and wet weather between April and August meant that honeybees had less opportunity to leave their hives, so little pollination took place...."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/0/19...>

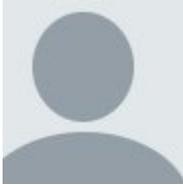
What is going on here, in the middle of the global warming trend, cold weather??
So what are we doing about the mites and the cold weather?

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[Dave](#) • [12 hours ago](#)

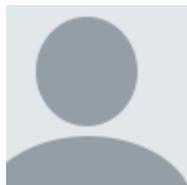
Bedbugs were almost extinct until the ban of DDT. I wonder what kind of pests this will bring about?

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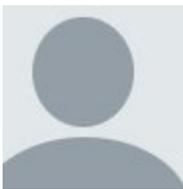
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[Novanice Dave](#) • [11 hours ago](#)

For starters, not that they are pests but it will bring about increased numbers of all flying pollinators - not just bees - that agriculture depends on. We should also see a return of many other flying insects that were once the primary food source of bats and swallows and other winged species that are now on the endangered list here in Nova Scotia.

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[John C.](#) • [11 hours ago](#)

Bees are one of the good insects, and their benefits to our society are profound. Research and development is what is needed to find a solution. Widespread use of pesticides is bad. No pesticide use zones should be established for regions where bees are known to be required in order support critical crop pollination activities. Alternative pest control methods must be establish for those regions. When a pesticide is noted to have negative benefits to our fragile ecosystem, it only makes sense to restrict or ban their usage. This not a greenie, tree-hugger concept; it is a solid agricultural management strategy. Bee are essential to various agricultural endeavours, and maintaining a healthy bee population is definitely a requirement.

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