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Neonicotinoid regulations

What you need to know about the new regulations that govern buying, selling and using neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seed.

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What's changing

A growing body of scientific evidence shows that neonicotinoid insecticides are highly toxic to honey bees and other beneficial insects.

In addition, neonicotinoid insecticides are persistent, meaning that they do not break down quickly in soil. They are water soluble and have the potential to easily run off into local watercourses, where they can potentially harm aquatic insects.

In Ontario, there is widespread use of neonicotinoid-treated seeds, in some cases, without evidence of pest problems. Close to 100 per cent of corn seed and 60 per cent of soybean seed sold in the province are treated with neonicotinoid insecticides.

On July 1, 2015, new regulatory requirements for the sale and use of neonicotinoid-treated seeds in Ontario will come into effect and be phased in over a period of time. The requirements will support the province's target to reduce the number of acres planted with neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seed by 80 per cent by 2017 focused on ensuring that neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seeds are used only when there is a demonstrated pest problem. Reducing neonicotinoid use in these two crops presents the greatest opportunity to decrease pollinator exposure to this neurotoxic insecticide.

[Learn more about the impacts of neonicotinoids](#) on pollinators.

Class 12 pesticides

The new rules create a new class of pesticides, known as Class 12 pesticides. This class applies to corn and soybean seeds treated with the following neonicotinoid insecticides:

- imidacloprid
- thiamethoxam
- clothianidin

This new class of pesticides applies to corn seed grown for grain or silage and soybean seed.

The regulation doesn't apply to popping corn, sweet corn or corn used for the production of seed. It also doesn't apply to soybean seed planted for the purpose of producing a soybean seed crop of certified status. Corn seed and soybean seed that are treated only with fungicide are not classified as Class 12 pesticides under the regulation.

You will only be able to buy and use neonicotinoid-treated seeds that vendors have put on the "Class 12 Pesticides List". The list will be posted [here](#) by August of each year.

The regulation does not include requirements for the transport and storage of Class 12 pesticides.

[Information for growers](#)

What you need to know about these changes if you grow corn or soybean.

[Information for vendors](#)

