

Banning neonicotinoids won't help bees

TIMES COLONIST

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Re: "Vancouver bans bee-killing pesticide," July 13.

By banning neonicotinoids Vancouver city council has taken a safe and effective lawn-care tool away from residents and will do absolutely nothing to improve the health of bees.

Statistics recently released by the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists show that national overwintering colony losses for 2015 were the lowest they have been in close to a decade. Those beekeepers who reported losses indicated that poor queens were the number one reason for colony losses, followed by Varroa mites, weak colonies and weather conditions.

That Vancouverites would want an effective way to control European chafer beetles, is understandable. These pests are more than just a nuisance — they destroy lawns and urban green spaces, which can lower property values, reduce residents' enjoyment of their city and harm athletic fields.

Before any pesticide can be sold in Canada, it must be approved by Health Canada. Canada's regulatory process is stringent and world-renowned and ensures pesticides are safe for both people and the environment. It's possible to have a perfectly lovely lawn and healthy bees when people have access to Health Canada-approved products.

Pierre Petelle
Vice-president of chemistry
CropLife Canada