

Pesticide decision awaits consultation

Times Colonist

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Re: “Pesticides linked to bee deaths to be phased out,” Aug. 15.

There are a few important details to clarify regarding the Pest Management Regulatory Agency announcement on clothianidin and thiamethoxam, two neonicotinoid pesticides.

First, the agency published a proposed special review decision for clothianidin and thiamethoxam, not a final decision. This proposal launches a 90-day consultation period. The agency will take public submissions, including additional scientific data, into account before making a final decision, which is expected in December 2019.

It’s also important to note this proposed special review is not related to pollinator health. The agency released a seemingly contradictory proposed decision validating the safety of both of these products for pollinators as seed treatments, which is one of their primary uses, this year.

Neonicotinoid-treated seed was developed as a safe and effective way to protect crops that minimizes exposure to non-target organisms such as bees.

The proposed cancellation of all agricultural uses of clothianidin and thiamethoxam would leave growers without this family of safe and efficient pest-control products that they rely on to protect their crops from potentially devastating insect pressures.

In keeping with the agency’s process, CropLife Canada, our members and stakeholder groups will use the 90-day consultation period to review in detail the data that led to the proposed special review decisions. If, as we anticipate, there is additional information that needs to be considered, we will ensure it is brought to the agency’s attention.

In the meantime, we stand behind the innovations that help Canadian farmers provide safe, nutritious food.

Pierre Petelle

President, CropLife Canada