Neonicotinoid Pesticides

The problems extend well beyond bees...

The Environment at Risk

Neonicotinoid (neonic) pesticides were developed in the 1980s and have since become the most used insecticides in the world. Their impacts on bees have been widely reported, but there's much more to know:

Neonics are similar in chemical structure to nicotine and are neuro-toxic to insects, earthworms, birds, and other wildlife. They are persistent in the environment, and recent studies suggest adverse human health impacts. A single treated seed can kill a songbird, and even tiny quantities can impact bird reproduction.



Neonics are used as a preemptive strike, killing both pests and beneficial insects. Today, they are applied to more than 100 million acres in the U.S. each year, and for some crops, farmers now have little choice but to buy neoniccoated seeds.

EPA has already acknowledged uncertainties regarding the environmental effects of neonics, but has yet to conduct a full risk evaluation for birds or endangered species. Some states, cities, and retailers have already placed restrictions on neonics due to environmental concerns, as have some European countries.

American Bird Conservancy is calling for a ban on neonic-coated seeds, and for a moratorium on other uses while data is gathered to determine the full impacts. Join us in asking the EPA to open the public comment periods on their recent neonic risk assessments.

> To learn more, visit abcbirds.org.



Neonics in Your Lunch Today?

Unlike many conventional pesticides, you cannot wash neonics off-they are integrated into the plant itself. We tested a range of fruits and vegetables purchased in



Are Neonics Effective?

Many studies have found that neonics did not increase agricultural yields. Their use on crops can be likened to feeding healthy people antibiotics as a preventive measure. Not surprisingly, some pests are already starting to develop resistance.

In the meantime, by harming pollinators like bees, and natural pest predators such as birds and beneficial insects, neonics are sabotaging the very organisms on which farmers depend.

congressional cafeterias and found neonics in more than 90% of the samples.



AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

American Bird Conservancy (ABC), a not-for-profit organization, is dedicated to conserving birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. Our Pesticides and Birds Campaign has been protecting birds from pesticide poisoning since 1998. Support ABC's work to protect birds from pesticides and other threats. Donate at www.abcbirds.org.