



## Pesticides 101 Webinar Chat Q&A

### [Webinar Recording](#)

**I'd like more information on the companies that use insect sprays on a regular basis. They say they are protecting pollinators. Is that true?**

Many of the companies that do mosquito spraying in home yards use chemicals that are "natural" but still toxic to pollinators and other beneficial insects that get sprayed.

**What is happening with NEONICS and bird seed sold in stores?**

This is something ABC is looking into. We have an excellent relationship with many bird seed producers and finding ways to encourage them to investigate their supply chains. Here is a great blog by ABC's Bryan Lenz addressing this issue: <https://abcbirds.org/blog/real-threat-from-neonics/>.

**Do environmental groups get equal weight within the EPA to enable them to contribute to the decisions of the EPA?**

The way the system is currently designed there are many avenues to weigh in. Whether or not the weight is equal between environmental groups and pesticide manufacturers is long debated. ABC, CBD, and Xerces all frequently weigh in during the pesticide regulation and registration process.

**How does the rangeland spraying affect soil biome?**

Depending on the chemical used, soil biomes can be greatly affected. Some pesticides have a long life in soil and can persist for weeks, months, and even years. Many will interact with and adversely affect non-target invertebrates such as earthworms, caterpillars, and beetles. Some may degrade into other compounds which can impact nontarget wildlife, and some will harmlessly degrade. Regardless, the EPA needs to make sure ALL potential impacts are being assessed.

**We have an indoor cat and people say cats are killing all the birds - are the pesticides doing that more?**

Cats are estimated to impact 1 billion birds just in the US every year. Current estimates for pesticides are 72 million birds.



**Would either of those pieces of legislation [Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act and Saving America's Pollinators Act] help stop/ curb the horrific spraying of residential streets with "misting" of toxic chemicals to "kill mosquitoes"? Thank you.**

Neither of those pieces of legislation impacts the method of application of pesticides, but rather classes of chemicals themselves. Mosquito spraying is often legislated at a local level, so engaging with city and state level officials is a great way to express your concerns.

**Free ranging domestic cats are said to cause 2.4 billions of birds casualties in USA alone, which is many much more that those caused by pesticide. Why not focusing first on the management of this species which is the only one being alien wherever it occurs?**

We do also have a cats indoors program: <https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/>.

**Do neonics attack the CNS of birds as well after they have eaten the insects? Or do they impact the health of birds in other ways?**

Hello! Neonics do attack the CNS of the birds when primarily ingested (eating a bug or berry or seed covered in neonics), but neonics have not been shown to bioaccumulate at levels which are widely threatening to birds. It does bioaccumulate in invertebrates. Much of that research has yet to be done!

**First, wasn't imidacloprid banned in NY state? Or was that a ban only for some uses or appliers. Second, the NY state bill to ban neonics failed to pass this years legislative session. A good fight was made by hundreds of environmental organizations to get it passed over the last 15 or more years but still, the bill failed. Big ag has a strong voice and they do not realize they are killing their own production ability.**

ABC was a strong supporter of the neonic seed treatment bill (S.699D) this session and we hope to see it introduced again! It is a long fight, but a fight worth winning.

**Does the seed treatment become a systemic in the resultant plant?**

If by systemic you mean it infects the entire plant, the answer is yes. The pesticide is grown into every part of the plant including fruits, pollen, nectar, etc.



**Even collisions with windows and vehicles cause more bird casualties than pesticides**

We also have a collisions program: <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions>. We work to tackle various threats!

**Will you have "sign-on" Letters for other non-profits to protest these loop-holes?**

Yes! There are several "sign-on" letters led by ABC or partners. Please get in touch if your organization would like to sign-on.

**"Can you explain more about your (both ABC and CBD) letters of support for the suspension of use of anthraquinone (AQ, sold as Avipel) as a deterrent to sandhill crane depredation on planted corn? I very much understand the need for a critical look at pesticides and their effect on all organisms, but AQ has certainly been shown as not being a traditional "pesticide" as it does not and will not kill the bird; it has been shown to be safe in the quantities used. The only effective method left to farmers here in the upper Midwest – lethal depredation ("kill") permits from USDA – are demonstrably harmful to cranes! A broad-brush approach like this will inevitably lead to the ban of useful and effective biological agents when it is not necessary. And AQ for use on corn to deter cranes is very much necessary, as the call for hunting seasons is now being used more and more, and also not a solution for farmers and bad for North American cranes.**

Great question! The idea of a non-lethal bird repellent with few or mitigatable environmental risks is VERY important and something which is worth consideration. AQ unfortunately was found to be highly carcinogenic to humans and had other negative health risks for applicators. It was originally classified as a biopesticide due to its low risk to wildlife, but afterwards was reclassified as a conventional pesticide due to human health risks. The underlying theory of AQ, however, is admirable and should be further explored.

**Is there an acceptable way to eliminate disease carrying insects (e.g. mosquitoes carrying malaria)?**

This is something we are working on in Hawaii: <https://abcbirds.org/program/hawaii/mosquitoes/>.



**What is the best time of day to water?**

Typically dawn and dusk - the cooler parts of the day - are the times recommended for watering gardens. This allows as much absorption of the water by plants as possible rather than it evaporating during the hottest part of the day (midday/afternoon).

**A company which services our apartment building uses Dinotefuran. How do I report this & to whom?**

If you have noticed a significant effect on nontarget wildlife from the use of this chemical, you can inform the National Pesticide Information Center: <http://npic.orst.edu/incidents.html>.

**I use 1gallon white vinegar, 1 cup of salt, and a bit of Dawn all mixed together for sidewalk weeds... Good idea?**

GREAT idea! Awesome homemade pesticide!

**You had herbicides included under types of pesticides—aren't they for plants while pesticides are targeting animals?**

Great question! A pesticide is any chemical, strategy, or item intended to eliminate or repel a targeted organism. Herbicides, fungicides, avicides, are all included!

**How dangerous to birds are typical fungicides?**

It depends on the individual chemical. Many fungicides are not directly harmful to vertebrates (like birds) as insecticides or herbicides, however fungicides often persist in soil and can impact invertebrates living there, collapsing food systems which birds rely on!

**For Aaron, what did you say were the best ways to water? We've been using the kind of sprinkler you said was not optimal to water our vegetable raised beds.**

Drip irrigation or soaker hoses!