

NYS Legislative Update

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The 2025 New York State legislative session officially came to a close shortly after midnight on June 18, 2025, when the Assembly Speaker adjourned the chamber. By that point, the State Senate had already wrapped up its work late the previous week following a marathon session that saw the passage of 1,742 bills—marking a notable increase in legislative output compared to recent years.

This year's end of session was unusually compressed due to the late adoption of the Budget on May 9th. The New York State Turfgrass Lobby Day, held on March 3, saw increased attendance and provided a valuable opportunity to advocate for \$250,000 in support of the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund. Thanks to strong support from Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo and Senator Michelle Hinchey, chairs of the Agriculture Committees in their respective houses, the final budget allocated \$200,000 to the fund. Senator Hinchey further secured an additional \$50,000, ensuring the full \$250,000 goal was met—an outcome much appreciated by the industry.

During Lobby Day, several bills were discussed, and their status will be outlined below now that the session has ended. Advocacy efforts will continue throughout the summer and into the fall on bills that have already passed both chambers.

A notable achievement this year was the passage of a resolution by Senator Martinez and Assemblywoman Griffen to designate May 10, 2025, as Golf Day in New York State, coinciding with National Golf Day. This recognition aims to highlight the golf industry's significance and its economic impact, especially with the upcoming Ryder Cup at Bethpage Black in September. The event will also serve as an opportunity to share updated economic impact data and to engage with state and federal decision-makers.

Key features of the session's conclusion included:

- **Final Legislative Activity:** The Assembly worked through a backlog of bills in extended sessions, especially in the final days, after the Senate had already adjourned.
- **Legislative Output:** Over 850 bills passed both chambers and were sent to the governor for consideration, where she may sign, veto, or negotiate changes.
- **Potential for Special Session:** Legislative leaders and the governor have indicated the possibility of a special session in the fall to address anticipated federal budget cuts that could affect the state budget.

The legislative calendar allowed for flexibility, but the end of session was marked by a surge of activity as lawmakers worked to clear pending bills before adjournment.

Key Bills That Will Be Delivered to the Governor:

- **S.3163 / A.1819 (Hoylman-Sigal / Simon):** Enacts the monarch preservation plan, requiring the Department of Environmental Conservation to take feasible actions to conserve monarch butterflies and their habitats. While the bill acknowledges pesticides as a threat, it does not directly regulate them.
- **S.7358 / A.1890 (May / Glick):** Enacts the low impact landscaping rights act, advancing environmental sustainability by ensuring homeowners are not restricted from ecologically beneficial landscaping by homeowners' association rules.
- **S.1786 / A.6047 (Hinchley / Schiavoni):** Requires the Department of Health to publish an annual report on tick-borne illnesses and review health insurance coverage for Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases.
- **S.5983-A / A.6930 (Harckham / Burdick):** Prohibits the application of pesticides to certain local freshwater wetlands. This bill has been vetoed twice previously and is likely to face another veto.
- **S.794 / A.442 (May / Kelles):** Establishes a native plant and seed supply, development, and enhancement program (signed into law in February).
- **S.7359-A / A.7964-A (May / Keles):** Establishes a New York native plants designation, promoting the use of native plants in horticulture and landscaping.

Bills That Did Not Pass Both Houses (Remain Alive for 2026):

- **S.3412 / A.3527 (Ramos / Bronson):** Provides for regulation of all indoor and outdoor worksites. Opposed by the business community for being overly broad and burdensome.
- **S.424 / A.3331 (Liu / Dinowitz):** Prohibits the use of gas-powered leaf and lawn blowers during certain months. Industry concerns include lack of infrastructure and high costs for electric alternatives.
- **A2114 (Carroll):** Bans gasoline-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers.
- **A3557 (Burke):** Allows municipalities to regulate pesticides more strictly than state law.
- **S.1064 / A.2645 (Serrano / Rosenthal):** Prohibits the purchase and use of glyphosate on New York State property.
- **S.1363 / A.1555 (Serrano / Rosenthal):** Prohibits non-emergency application of pesticides on municipal park lands.

All bills not passed this session will remain active for consideration when the legislature reconvenes in January 2026

Lastly, I wanted to provide you with an update on the “Birds and Bees Protection Act” law. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation posted some very helpful information on their website that I wanted to share with you:

Neonicotinoid Environmental Emergency Determination Form

Effective December 31, 2024, the Birds and Bees Protection Act in ECL 33-1301(13) prohibits the treatment of outdoor ornamental plants and turf with pesticide products containing clothianidin or dinotefuran. There are several exemptions to this prohibition which would allow the application of pesticide products containing clothianidin or dinotefuran. These exemptions include:

- Applications on agricultural commodities;
- Structural commercial applications within one foot of a building foundation perimeter to manage structural pests provided that the application is not conducted on any blooming plants;
- Applications by, or under the supervision of, a certified applicator for treatment against invasive species affecting woody plants; and
- Applications conducted in accordance with a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation written order to address an “environmental emergency” as defined in ECL 33-1301(13)(d).

If you believe clothianidin or dinotefuran would be effective in addressing an “environmental emergency,” and there is no other less harmful pesticide or pest management practice to effectively address the environmental emergency, please submit a completed [Request for Determination of an Environmental Emergency Form](#) (PDF, 247 KB)

Introductions to Neonicotinoids Insecticides Course Now Available through Cornell

Amendments to Article 33, of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), referred to as the “Birds and Bees Protection Act”, require commercial applicators using pesticides containing the active ingredients **clothianidin or dinotefuran** to take a NYSDEC approved Title 13 neonicotinoid course prior to using these pesticides for:

1. Treatment against invasive species affecting woody plants; or
2. An application that has been approved to address an environmental emergency pursuant to [1301.13\(b\)\(1\) of the ECL](#).

Applicators using these pesticides as described above, must take the course annually and maintain the course completion certificate for three years.

Additionally, beginning on December 31, 2026, commercial applicators using pesticides containing **imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, or acetamiprid** for the uses listed above will also need to abide by the course requirements of ECL Article 33, Title 13 (Birds and Bees Protection Act).

To find a NYSDEC-approved Title 13 neonicotinoid course, you can utilize the Bureau of Pesticides Management information portal, [NYSPAD](#). When searching for this course in the database, make sure that Distance Learning is selected as “Yes”. The course offered is called *Introductions to Neonicotinoid Insecticides - NYSDEC Approved Title 13 Course*, course ID NY-25-435354. This

course covers topics including, the benefits of neonicotinoid insecticides, the identification of non-target risks with these insecticides, and the identification of alternatives to neonicotinoids.

For questions regarding these amendments to the ECL, please contact the Bureau of Pesticides Management at: 518-402-8727 or PesticideCompliance@dec.ny.gov.

New Neonicotinoid Legislation Passes in New York State

Article 33 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) was amended in 2023 and early 2024 to prohibit the use of certain neonicotinoid pesticides on outdoor ornamental plants and turf beginning on December 31, 2024, for some products, followed by others on December 31, 2026. In addition, Article 37 of the ECL was amended to prohibit the sale, offer for sale or use, or distribution within the state any corn, soybean, or wheat seeds coated or treated with pesticides containing clothianidin, imidacloprid, or thiamethoxam on January 1, 2029. These amendments to the ECL have been referred to as the “Birds and Bees Protection Act”.

Beginning December 31, 2024, Article 33 (ECL 33-1301(13)) prohibits the treatment of outdoor ornamental plants and turf with pesticide products containing clothianidin or dinotefuran and beginning December 31, 2026, this prohibition is further expanded to include pesticide products containing imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, or acetamiprid.

There are several exemptions to this prohibition which would allow the application of pesticide products containing clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, or acetamiprid. These exemptions include:

- Applications on agricultural commodities;
- Structural commercial applications within one foot of a building foundation perimeter to manage structural pests provided that the application is not conducted on any blooming plants;
- Applications by, or under the supervision of, a certified applicator for treatment against invasive species affecting woody plants; and
- Applications conducted in accordance with a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) written order to address an environmental emergency.

Pesticide applicators conducting applications for the treatment of invasive species affecting woody plants or applications in accordance with a NYSDEC written order to address an environmental emergency must take an NYSDEC-approved neonicotinoid course annually and maintain a record of this course for three years.

NYSDEC is currently developing the written order process for environmental emergencies.

This amendment also requires NYSDEC, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and Cornell to conduct a study to identify practicable and feasible alternatives to the use of

neonicotinoids. The results of the study must be submitted to the governor on or before January 1, 2026, and posted on the NYSDEC's website.

[Read the full language of ECL 33-1301\(13\).](#)

The amendment to ECL Article 37, "Substances Hazardous or Acutely Hazardous to Public Health, Safety or the Environment" Title 11 regulates neonicotinoid pesticide coated or treated seeds.

Beginning January 1, 2029, this amendment prohibits the sale, offer for sale or use, or distribution of any corn, soybean, or wheat seeds coated or treated with pesticides containing clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, or any other neonicotinoid as determined by NYSDEC regulation in New York State.

There is an exemption to this prohibition which allows farms to request a waiver from NYSDEC to use corn, soybean, or wheat seeds coated or treated with pesticides containing clothianidin, imidacloprid, or thiamethoxam.

This waiver process will be developed through NYSDEC regulation in consultation with NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, as required by the amendment. The amendment requires this waiver to be based upon a pest risk assessment, report, and the farm owner completing integrated pest management training.

The NYSDEC must annually report to the legislature the number of waivers granted.

[Read the full language of ECL 37-1101.](#)

In addition, section 71-3703(7) of the ECL was amended to provide penalties for violations of section 37-1101 of the ECL. This penalty provision imposes a maximum civil penalty of one thousand dollars for each day the violation continues and a maximum civil penalty of two thousand five hundred dollars for each day the second violation continues.

[Read the full language of ECL 71-3703\(7\).](#)