CT'S NEONICS BILL HB6916

Restricting High-Harm, Low-Benefit Uses of the Neonicotinoid Pesticides Harming CT's Birds, Bees, Wildlife, Rivers, and People

Connecticut CPR Pesticide Reform

NEONICS HARM HUMAN HEALTH

- Nicotine-like, neonicotinoids (neonics) affect the neurological system. Studies show harms to heart and brain development in prenatally exposed children, decreased sperm quality and quantity, decreased testosterone, altered insulin regulation, and changes in fat metabolism.
- The most widely used insecticides in the world, US Geological Survey studies show they are in 53% of US streams including 56% of the CT rivers tested.
- USGS data shows the presence of neonics in CT groundwater, which is concerning in a state that relies heavily on well water.
- USDA testing found 63% of fruit and vegetable samples contained at least one neonic, and 57% contained more than one. Neonics work systemically, throughout the plant, so they can't be washed off.
- The CDC found neonics in 50% of the population with the highest concentrations found in children.
- A 2022 peer-reviewed study from the University of Illinois found neonicotinoids in 95% of the pregnant women who participated in the study.

NEONICS DESTROY FOOD CHAINS HOLLOWING OUT ECOSYSTEMS

- One square foot of lawn treated with neonics at EPA-approved levels can kill a million bees
- Neonics are 7000 times as toxic to insects as DDT
- Sharp declines in bee and other insect populations have been linked to neonics in hundreds of studies reviewed in a 2020 Cornell University report.
- Neonics have made U.S. agriculture 48 times more harmful to insects since the mid 1990's. (Cornell)
- USGS testing shows neonics in Connecticut rivers at levels lethal to aquatic insect life and warns of resulting threats to the health of river ecosystems
- A 2024 peer-reviewed study pinpoints neonics as a critical factor pushing monarchs to extinction.
- Bird declines of more than 2.9 billion in the last 50 years are linked to neonics both directly through poisonings and indirectly through insect declines.
- One neonic-coated seed is enough to kill a songbird and sublethal effects include interference with metabolism, migration, and reproduction.
- A 2023 EPA study shows neonics are jeopardizing over 200 threatened and endangered species.

Research shows neonics are no longer effective as lawn treatment for grubs which are becoming resistant.

HB6916 RESTRICTS WASTEFUL AND OBSOLETE USES OF NEONICS ON COATED SEEDS, LAWNS, AND GARDENS

- New York and Vermont are requiring a verification of need before using neonic-coated row-crop seeds including corn and soy.
- New York, Vermont, New Jersey, Maine, and Nevada have passed laws barring use on lawns and/or in ornamental landscaping.
- Most neonic uses are banned in Europe and parts of Canada.

A 2020 Cornell University Report shows neonic-coated seeds do not increase yields for farmers of corn, soybeans, and wheat.

THE PROBLEM WITH NEONIC-COATED SEEDS

- Thanks to a federal loophole, pesticides applied as a seed coating are no longer regulated as pesticides. Over 800 million corn seeds are planted each year in CT and virtually all (except organic) are coated with neonics.
- Only 5% of that pesticide coating is taken up into the plant, according to industry research. The remaining 95% moves through soil and air into waterways.
- Over 400 studies compiled in a landmark 2020 report by Cornell show that using neonic-coated corn, soybean or wheat seeds offers 'no overall net income benefits' to farmers and there are safer alternatives.
- Pesticides on the seeds are being used preventatively, whether the plant faces a pest problem or not.

EPA'S INSECTICIDE STRATEGY DOES NOT ADDRESS NEONIC USE ON LAWNS AND GOLF COURSES OR ON COATED SEEDS

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