



Honeybees Need Our Help! Let's remove all neonicotinid pesticides from Alaska!

Here's the facts on Neonics:

Neonicotinoids are the most widely used insecticide in the world.

Neonicotinoids are systemic, meaning that they are taken up by a plant's vascular system and expressed through pollen and nectar, which bees forage and drink.

Neonicotinoid exposure can disrupt bees' reproduction, mobility, navigation, feeding, foraging, memory and overall hive activity. These chemicals are also suspected of affecting immune systems, making them more vulnerable to parasites and pathogens.

Neonicotinoids also harm butterflies and other beneficial organisms.

These pesticides have been tied to dramatic losses of honeybee colonies, and conditions such as Colony Collapse Disorder.

Pollinators such as honeybees are very important to our food supply:

- Of the 100 crops that provide 90% of the world's food, more than 70 are pollinated by bees.
- In North America, honeybees pollinate over 95 kinds of fruits, such as avocados, cranberries, almonds, and apples.
- In the last decade there has been a 300% increase in crop production requiring bee pollination worldwide.
- \$150 million worth of honey is produced annually in the U.S.

In December 2013, the European Union began implementing a two-year moratorium on the three most toxic neonics.

Here's what we can do:

There is a bill before the legislature that would ban the use of these pesticides in Alaska. The bill is called HB20, **This bill needs your support!** If this bill becomes law, these pesticides will be banned from use in Alaska. But... the bill has a lot of hurdles ahead of it. Here are things you can do:

- **Contact your state legislator.** If you're not sure who to contact, look them up here: <http://akleg.gov/house.php>
- The bill is in the House Resources Committee. **Contact the committee members.** <http://goo.gl/LyAvig>
- **Write a letter of support.** Here is a sample: http://realalaskahoney.com/?page_id=41
- After you do all of those things, **tell your friends!** Call them, email them, spread the word on Facebook and twitter... any way you can get the word out. **We need as many people as possible from all over Alaska to contact their legislators!**

Bees are particularly vulnerable to these kinds of pesticides! The pesticides are applied to soil, seeds and to the plants themselves. The plants absorb the chemicals, and then release them in pollen and nectar in small amounts. Bees gather the pollen and nectar and bring them back to the hive. The chemicals don't kill the bees right away, but the honey and other stores become contaminated, and it is this long term exposure to the chemicals that kills the bees, often in the middle of winter.

Contact your legislator, senator and the governor today!