

US overturns approval of sulfoxaflor, only neonicotinoid approved in EU

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A worldwide dispute over the threat to bees posed by the class of pesticides called [neonicotinoids](#), took a dramatic turn in early September, when a U.S. court overturned federal approval for a new formulation called sulfoxaflor. Judges found that the EPA had relied on “flawed and limited” data, and its green light was unjustified given the “precariousness of bee populations”.

As a result of the U.S. decisions, rules in the U.S. and European Union are in bizarre contradiction. The U.S. has approved most neonicotinoids while now banning sulfoxaflor.

But the [EU has banned most neonicotinoids for use on flowering crops and spring sown crops](#) since 2013, but approved sulfoxaflor in July on the basis that it would not have any unacceptable effects on the environment.

Environmentalists and bee-keepers' associations who brought the legal action believe the U.S. ruling could turn the tide against neonicotinoids in general. Campaigners told *New Scientist* that the same criticisms of the [quality of research highlighted](#) by the court applied to the three other neonicotinoid pesticides: clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid.

Neonicotinoids have grown popular for protecting fruit, vegetables and arable crops against boring and biting pests, including aphids and beetles. But they have been widely accused of [harming bees](#) and other pollinators. The U.S. court found that the EPA, after initially asking Dow for more studies on these sub-lethal effects, eventually granted approval for the pesticides without them.

Read full, original post: [Bees win as US court rules against neonicotinoid pesticide](#)