

## Health Canada sticks with phase out of neonicotinoid insecticides although its study finds impact on bees is limited

Health Canada is sticking with its proposal to phase out most outdoor and agricultural uses of a common pesticide, even though a recent study found bees are only affected by the substance in certain circumstances.

[The recommendation comes](#) the same day as more than 200 scientists published an open letter in the journal Science asking international governments to develop agreements to not use so-called neonicotinoids and to prevent similarly harmful pesticides to be developed and used in the future.

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In 2016, [Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency] concluded one of the neonics, imidacloprid was building up in the surface and ground water and causing widespread death among aquatic insects. Its interim recommendation then was to ban imidacloprid from most agricultural and outdoor uses entirely.

That study, however, didn't look at the impact on bees and other pollinators. The regulator did a separate evaluation on that front and concluded neonics only affect bees in certain ways and that if their application was banned on the main crops which are attractive to bees, the risk is "acceptable."

Nonetheless, the earlier recommendation for a ban will stand, an official with Health Canada said....

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