

Viewpoint: No more Christmas trees? Why proposed bans on neonicotinoids won't protect bees but will threaten many other plants

With Christmas so close, many of us in Michigan have enjoyed a common holiday tradition this year: finding the perfect fresh Christmas tree to put up in our home. Unfortunately, harsh state regulations could put Michigan's Christmas tree production in serious jeopardy.

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[I]t is common for tree farms to plant around 2,000 trees per acre, although only about [1,250 on average](#) survive as infestations from pests, insects and disease are common. Fortunately, there are many innovative solutions to prevent infestations and ensure that Christmas tree farmers are able to optimize their yields.

One of the innovative solutions listed in Michigan State University's 2021 Michigan Christmas Tree Pest Management Guide is [neonicotinoids or neonics](#).

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Unfortunately, there have been calls to restrict neonics in Michigan that would result in severe economic harm to our Christmas tree farms. Just earlier this year, a [bill was introduced](#) to the Michigan House that contained language banning the use of neonics, claiming that the insecticide would kill bee populations.

At one time, many believed that a decline in bee populations were a result of widespread use of neonics and substitutes such as [sulfoxaflor](#), although this has since been debunked.

[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.](#)