

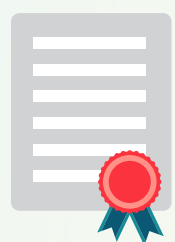
Neonicotinoids in Canada

Neonicotinoids (neonics) are a group of pesticides used in agriculture to protect crops from various insects. There are three main neonics currently approved for use in Canada: imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam.

Neonics are used across Canada on a variety of crops, from corn and soybeans, to many different vegetables such as potatoes and herbs. They can be applied to seeds, soil or plants, and can also be used to control insects in homes and fleas on pets, as well as to protect trees from invasive insects.



Health Canada's role



Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is responsible for pesticide regulation in Canada. To be approved for sale in Canada, all pesticides must undergo a rigorous science-based review. Health Canada periodically reviews all registered pesticides to ensure they meet modern health and safety standards for protecting human health and the environment, and also reviews registered pesticides to respond to emerging concerns.

An example of this would be the series of scientific reviews for neonics that began in 2012. These reviews addressed the risks to honey bees, native pollinators and the level of neonics found in water. Over the past years, Health Canada has identified, and immediately addressed, human health and environmental issues that have come up during science-based reviews for neonics, and in doing so, has created the following changes to registration:



Canada and US establish a framework to assess risks to bees (and other pollinators)

2014

Studies are conducted in Canada and US to determine risks to pollinators from exposure to neonicotinoids



Extensive neonicotinoid water monitoring campaign across Canada

2014-2017

Health Canada publishes decisions on risks to pollinators from exposure to neonicotinoids



Health Canada publishes decisions on risks to aquatic invertebrates from exposure to clothianidin and thiamethoxam

2017-2019

Health Canada publishes decisions on risks to pollinators from exposure to neonicotinoids



Health Canada publishes proposed decisions on potential risks to squash bees from exposure to neonicotinoids

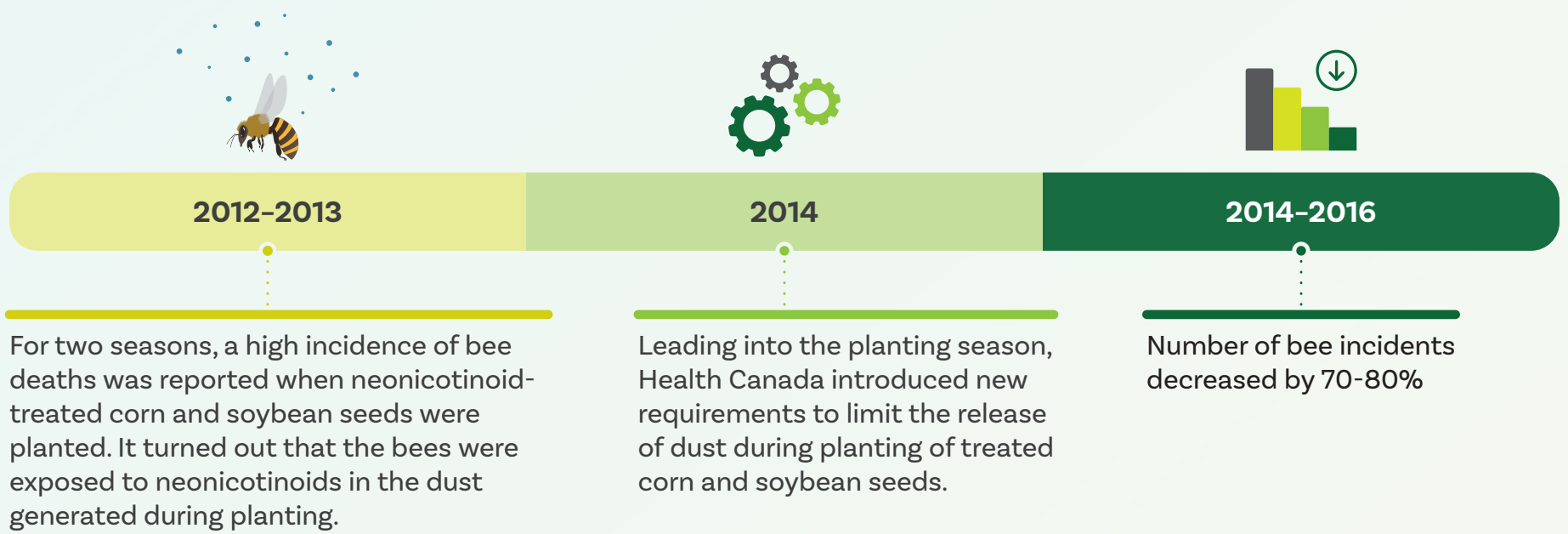
2019

Health Canada publishes decision on health and environmental reviews of imidacloprid



2021

What happened to the bees?



Quick stats (as of June 2021)



10 Public consultations to date



Over **100 000** comments received



Over **500** studies on bees/pollinators reviewed



Over **8 500** water samples from more than **750** sites across Canada assessed

Working towards a better future

Over the past 8 years, these ambitious and rigorous scientific reviews of neonicotinoid pesticides have led to the following changes for Canada:



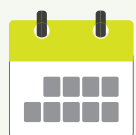
Increased protection to the environment to protect pollinators and aquatic invertebrates



Cancelled uses and application methods



New requirements for greenhouse uses



Restrictions on application timing before and during bloom to protect pollinators



Reduced application rates



Increased Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements



Increased spray buffer zones

These changes will continue to create a more sustainable future for Canadian agriculture and the environment by:

- Improving pesticide applicator safety;
- Benefitting pollinators that are needed for improved biodiversity and crop production;
- Benefitting aquatic invertebrates that are needed for improved water quality;
- Protecting ground and surface water from pesticide contamination.

