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Canada Releases Select Final Regulatory Decisions for Neonicotinoids

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Monitoring

Policy and Program Announcements

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Health Canada will continue registration of three neonicotinoids following a re-evaluation related to risk to pollinators for imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam. Restrictions to permitted uses and cancellation of some foliar and soil applications will proceed as originally proposed while seed treatments will continue to be permitted. Current maximum residue limits for imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam will remain in place at this time.

Keywords: Canada, CA19013, PMRA, Neonicotinoids, MRL

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has released the final regulatory decisions on the permitted uses of three neonicotinoids related to their evaluation on impacts to pollinators: [imidacloprid](#), [clothianidin](#), and [thiamethoxam](#). For imidacloprid, PMRA is permitting continued registration of imidacloprid products with some label amendments. Seed treatments will continue to be permitted with additional label statements on products to minimize pollinator exposure to imidacloprid-containing dust during planting. However, the following restrictions will be implemented as outlined by PMRA:

- Foliar applications to potatoes, grapes, legume vegetables (excluding broad beans/fava beans/*Vicia faba*), peanut, and tobacco will not be permitted during bloom.
- Foliar applications to fruiting vegetables, herbs that are harvested after bloom, legume vegetables (broad beans/fava beans/*Vicia faba* only), berry crops (with renovation after harvest for woody berries), tree nuts excluding those with high pollinator attractiveness will not be permitted before or during bloom.
- Foliar applications to pome fruit, stone fruit, certain tree nuts with high pollinator attractiveness, lavender, and rosemary will no longer be permitted at any time.
- Soil application on legume, fruiting, and cucurbit vegetables when grown outdoors, herbs harvested after bloom, small fruit and berries (caneberry, bushberry low-growing berry, berry and small fruit vine excluding grapes), and ornamentals that are attractive to pollinators and planted outside will no longer be permitted at any time.

Similar to imidacloprid, amended label statements are required under the final decisions for clothianidin and thiamethoxam while seed treatments will continue to be permitted with risk mitigation strategies to minimize pollinator exposure during planting. Additional restrictions for clothianidin per PMRA:

- The number of foliar applications permitted on cucurbit vegetables will be reduced to one application per season.
- Foliar application to orchard trees and strawberries, and to municipal, industrial and residential turf sites will no longer be permitted at any time.

Additional restrictions for thiamethoxam per PMRA:

- Foliar application to legume and outdoor fruiting vegetables, and to berry crops (with renovation required for woody berries) will not be permitted before or during bloom.
- Foliar application to sweet potato and potato will not be permitted during bloom.
- Foliar and soil application to ornamental crops that will result in pollinator exposure (in other words, are planted outdoors and are attractive to pollinators) will no longer be permitted at any time.
- Soil application to berry crops, cucurbit crops and fruiting vegetables will no longer be permitted at any time.
- Foliar application to orchard trees will no longer be permitted at any time.

Implementation of the regulatory changes will occur over a 24-month period from the announcement. There will be an additional 12-month period permitted in some regions related to certain pest activity and a lack of pest management alternatives; full details on these exceptions can be requested from [PMRA](#). Therefore, the changes to permitted uses for the majority of crops and regions in Canada will be

fully implemented for the 2021 growing season unless a notice of objection and request to reconsider the decision is filed within 60 days of April 11, 2019 and is successful in generating a change to PMRAs final decision. More details on this process and the procedure to submit a request for reconsideration of the final decision can be found on the PMRA [website](#).

It is important to note that the above decisions reflect only the final regulatory decisions related to pollinators. The final regulatory decision related to aquatic life for imidacloprid was scheduled to be released in December 2018 with the final decisions for clothianidin and thiamethoxam in January 2020. Current expectations are that the final regulatory decisions for these three neonicotinoids will occur in late 2019 or early 2020. The proposed final decisions for these three neonicotinoids based on aquatic life were much more restrictive than the pollinator decisions. Further details on PMRAs proposed decisions for aquatic life can be found in GAIN Report [CA18051](#).

At this time, there has been no indication from PMRA that maximum residue limits (MRLs) related to these three neonicotinoids will be altered; this could change in future depending on the outcome of the aquatic risk evaluation. Current MRLs for specific commodities and active ingredients in Canada are maintained in Health Canada's [MRL database for pesticides](#).