

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Canada Announces Decisions for Neonicotinoid Pesticides

Country: Canada

Post: Ottawa

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

On March 31, 2021, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Canada published two special review decisions regarding the risks to aquatic insects from two neonicotinoid pesticides: clothianidin and thiamethoxam.

Several uses are retained, with additional risk mitigation measures required, and there are no proposed changes to maximum residue limits. Canadian growers and the registrant will have a 24-month transition period to adopt mitigation measures and label amendments. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Canada is hosting a webinar on these special review decisions April 15, 2021

Background

In 2012, PMRA began their re-evaluation process for three agriculturally important neonicotinoid products; imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam. As part of the re-evaluation, risks to not only pollinators but also aquatic invertebrates were considered. In 2018, PMRA released a proposed decision for clothianidin and thiamethoxam based on the potential risks to aquatic invertebrates and aquatic environments. Cancellation of outdoor uses of both neonicotinoids was proposed; see GAIN report [CA18051](#) for further details.

Following the consultation period on the proposed decision, additional data became available from published literature as well as water monitoring completed by the registrants and environmental monitoring networks. Considerations for the impacts of altered uses, as a result of the final decisions based on risks to pollinators for both [clothianidin](#) and [thiamethoxam](#), were also factored in. As a result, PMRA incorporated this additional data in their final decision and have determined that certain uses of both neonicotinoids may continue, with required mitigation measures, without presenting an unacceptable risk to aquatic environments.

The final decision for [clothianidin](#):

- Cancelled uses:
 - In-furrow application on potato.
 - Seed treatment for field sown leafy vegetables and bunching onions.
 - Greenhouse seed treatment use for onion maggot and seed corn maggot on bulb onions (pests are only found in field production).
- Changes to uses:
 - Maximum seed treatment rate for field corn reduced to 150 g a.i.¹/100 kg seed. As a result, uses for corn rootworm are cancelled.
 - Yearly maximum seed treatment rate for vegetables is limited to 100 g a.i./ha.
 - Maximum foliar rate for cucurbits is reduced to a single application of 70 g a.i./ha per season. As a result, uses for brown marmorated stink bug are cancelled.
 - Maximum foliar rate for potatoes is reduced to a single application of 52.5 g a.i./ha per season.
 - Maximum foliar rate for turf is reduced to a single application of 125 g a.i./ha per season. As a result, uses for hairy chinch bug, annual bluegrass weevil, bluegrass billbug, and European crane fly are cancelled.
 - Spray buffer zones are required for freshwater habitats.

¹ g a.i. = grams of active ingredient

(Source: PMRA)

The final decision for [thiamethoxam](#):

- Cancelled uses:
 - Soil drench application on potato.
 - Foliar application on lowbush blueberries.
- Changes to uses:
 - Maximum seed treatment rate for field corn reduced to 200 g a.i./100 kg seed. As a result, uses for corn rootworm are cancelled.
 - Maximum seed treatment rate for soybean reduced to 30 g a.i./100 kg seed. As a result, uses for bean leaf beetle, European chafer, soybean aphid, and wireworm are cancelled.
 - Maximum soil drench and in-furrow rate for leafy vegetables reduced to 90 g a.i./100 kg seed. As a result, uses for cabbage looper, beet armyworm, corn earworm, and fall armyworm are cancelled.
 - Maximum soil drench and in-furrow rate for brassica vegetables reduced to 90 g a.i./100 kg seed. As a result, uses for dipteran leafminers, cabbage looper, diamondback moth, imported cabbageworm, thrips, beet armyworm, corn earworm, fall armyworm, and yellowstriped armyworm are cancelled.
 - Yearly maximum foliar applications for shelled bean, potato, and soybean is limited to once per year.
 - Yearly maximum foliar applications for all pests on celeriac and for pepper weevil on peppers is limited to once per year.
 - Yearly maximum foliar applications for fruiting vegetables for stink bug, tarnished plant bug, and brown marmorated sting bug is limited to once per year at the maximum application rate of 52.5 g a.i./ha.
 - Yearly maximum foliar applications for cranberry is limited to once per year. An additional requirement is that flood water must be held for 30 days post-application for cranberries which require flooding.
 - Spray buffer zones are required for freshwater habitats and terrestrial habitats.

(Source: PMRA)

A 24-month transition period is provided in order to provide the registrant and retailers with sufficient time to use remaining inventory and to produce product with the amended labels. Growers are also provided with a 24-month transition period to phase-out cancelled uses and to adopt to use changes and required mitigation measures.

PMRA is hosting a webinar on these special review decisions April 15, 2021. Those interested in attending can email PMRA at the following address by April 12, 2021:

- Send name, affiliation, and preferred language to: hc.pmra.webinar-webinaire.arla.sc@canada.ca

PMRA is continuing to complete additional evaluations of imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam. Proposed special review decisions for all three chemistries on squash bees are expected

in Spring 2021, the general re-evaluation for imidacloprid is expected in Spring 2021, and the proposed cyclical re-evaluation decisions for clothianidin and thiamethoxam are expected in Spring 2022.

PMRA has not identified additional risks to human health in their evaluations to date. As a result, there are no proposed changes to current maximum residue limits (MRLs). Implications of cancelled and altered uses are restricted to Canadian growers at this time.

Requests for information from the PMRA can be directed to:

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Attachments:

No Attachments.