

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Health Canada Provides Update on Re-Evaluations of Three Neonicotinoids

Country: Canada

Post: Ottawa

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Trade Policy Monitoring

Prepared By: Alexandria Watters

Approved By: Philip Hayes

Report Highlights:

Health Canada has provided an update on the re-evaluation of three neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam) and proposed timelines for the final re-evaluation decisions. Final reviews related to pollinators for the three neonicotinoids were completed in April 2019. Certain uses are canceled and others are amended with mitigation measures required to be in place by April 2021. The final comprehensive re-evaluation decision for imidacloprid is scheduled to be published in Fall 2020. Final comprehensive re-evaluation decisions for clothianidin and thiamethoxam will follow the release of the aquatic risk decisions. Currently, there are no indications for a review of maximum residue limits (MRL) for these chemistries. Keywords: Canada, Neonicotinoids, Pesticides, MRL

[Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency \(PMRA\)](#) has been undertaking a [multi-year review](#) of three neonicotinoid pesticides ([imidacloprid](#), [clothianidin](#), and [thiamethoxam](#)) on the risks to human health, terrestrial vertebrate health, pollinator health, risks to aquatic organisms, and value. In April 2019, PMRA released their final re-evaluation decisions for all three neonicotinoids related to pollinator health. Implementation of restrictions and mitigating measures are scheduled to occur over a 24-month period taking effect in April 2021, with some regions receiving an additional 12-month period related to pest activity in those regions.

PMRA will also complete a [special review](#) of the three neonicotinoids with regards to the squash bee (*Peponapis pruinosa*) for those products registered for use on cucurbits. This will be based on submission of relevant data from studies currently occurring in academia and will evaluate whether the current risk mitigation measures for pollinators remain enough for squash bees. If the review reveals a risk not addressed by the current decision regarding pollinator health, additional measures will be implemented.

In addition to the special review for squash bee, PMRA is presently reviewing new data related to aquatic risks. This review may alter the original proposed final decisions for the three neonicotinoids in relation to mitigating aquatic risk. The original proposal would have seen virtually all agricultural and outdoor uses eliminated. The final decision for the aquatic risk review for clothianidin and thiamethoxam was originally scheduled to be released in late 2019. However, in order to incorporate the additional data into risk assessment models, PMRA is now expected to release the final decision for aquatic risk in Fall 2020. PMRA will also release the final, comprehensive re-evaluation decision for imidacloprid in Fall 2020. Following the release of the aquatic risk reviews for clothianidin and thiamethoxam, PMRA will also release a final, comprehensive re-evaluation decision for these two neonicotinoids at an unspecified future date.

Currently, the risk reviews for imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam have proposed risk mitigation measures that would be restricted to domestic Canadian growers. In a November 2016 [proposed re-evaluation decision](#) for imidacloprid, PMRA identified no risks of concern regarding human health. Therefore, there is presently no expectation that MRLs will be re-evaluated unless there is a change in the risk evaluation for human health.

Canadian restrictions and mitigating measures for pollinators to be implemented in April 2021 are as follows:

Imidacloprid

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.

Clothianidin

Amended label statements are required under the final decisions for clothianidin 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.

Thiamethoxam

Amended label statements are required under the final decisions for thiamethoxam while seed treatments will continue to be permitted with risk mitigation strategies to minimize pollinator exposure during planting. 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.

Attachments:

No Attachments.