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## Canada

### Canada to Phase Out Two More Neonicotinoids

**Post:** Ottawa

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Policy and Program Announcements

Trade Policy Monitoring

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**Report Highlights:**

Two Pest Management Regulatory Agency special reviews have proposed cancellation of all outdoor uses of clothianidin and thiamethoxam over three to five years. Ninety-day public consultations on the proposed special review decisions will close on November 13, 2018. Maximum residue limits for clothianidin and thiamethoxam would remain unchanged, as Canada has not proposed revoking the products' registrations.

**Keywords:** Canada, CA18051, PMRA, Neonicotinoids, MRL

Clothianidin and thiamethoxam are neonicotinoid crop protection pesticides applied to seeds, to leaves, and through ground treatments to mitigate insect damage to crops and to control insect populations. PMRA has proposed cancelling outdoor uses of both neonicotinoids to mitigate risks to the aquatic environment and aquatic invertebrates. PMRA concluded that these neonicotinoid products pose unacceptable environmental risks and therefore PMRA is proposing the following risk mitigations:

### **Clothianidin**

Cancel all outdoor uses for:

- Food and feed crop treatments
- Seed treatments
- Turf treatments

### **Thiamethoxam**

Cancel all outdoor uses for:

- Food and feed crop treatments
- Seed treatments
- Outdoor ornamental treatments

PMRA is proposing to phase-out the use of clothianidin and thiamethoxam over a three to five year period following conclusion of a public consultation period (see below) and consideration of all comments received. PMRA considered greenhouse use of thiamethoxam acceptable under this review. PMRA announced that it would consider alternate risk management proposals, however, it may also impose additional mitigation measures during the phase-out period. Cancelling the uses listed above would not immediately affect the registration status of either clothianidin or thiamethoxam. Accordingly, the [MRLs for clothianidin and thiamethoxam](#) would remain unchanged.

**Table 1. Publication Schedule for Neonicotinoid Assessments**

	<b>Imidacloprid</b>	<b>Clothianidin</b>	<b>Thiamethoxam</b>
<b>Consultation on outcome of science reviews and proposed measures to protect pollinators</b>	March 2018	December 2017	December 2017
<b>Final science reviews and decision on measures to protect pollinators</b>	December 2018	December 2018	December 2018
<b>Consultation on outcome of science reviews and proposed measures to protect aquatic life</b>	-	July 2018	July 2018
<b>Final Decision on measures to protect aquatic life</b>	December 2018	January 2020	January 2020

The public comment periods are open until November 13, 2018 and comments can be submitted electronically using [PMRA's Publications Section](#); reference PSRD2018-01 (clothianidin) and PSRD2018-02 (thiamethoxam) accordingly. Full consultation documents can be requested through PMRA's online platform, or for more information contact the [Pest Management Information Service](#).

### **Pest Management Information Service**

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## **Background**

In 2012, Canada began its re-evaluation process for three agriculturally important neonicotinoid products: [imidacloprid](#), [clothianidin](#), [thiamethoxam](#). In March 2017, GAIN Report [CA17008](#) highlighted the consultation process for proposed phase out of all agricultural uses of imidacloprid as well as the special reviews for clothianidin and thiamethoxam. In December 2017, PMRA released an [update](#) on the re-evaluation process for all three neonicotinoids, including opening [consultations](#) on the pollinator re-evaluations and the registration status for clothianidin and thiamethoxam. At the time, PMRA recommended continued registration for both clothianidin and thiamethoxam for three years, but with usage restrictions, including a phase-out of foliar and soil applications on certain commodities, restrictions on timing of foliar applications on certain crops, reductions in the number of pre-bloom applications permitted, and requirements for additional labeling for certain crop uses.

Alongside PMRA's proposed registration decisions on clothianidin and on thiamethoxam, a special review of clothianidin and thiamethoxam, initiated in November 2016, was assessing the products' risk to aquatic invertebrates. The [proposed re-evaluation decision for imidacloprid](#) identified risks of concern to aquatic invertebrates, which triggered the special reviews for clothianidin and thiamethoxam. Consultation summary documents for the clothianidin and thiamethoxam special reviews are available by contacting PMRA and requesting "Special Review of Clothianidin Risk to Aquatic Invertebrates, Proposed Decision for Consultation [PSRD2018-01](#)" and/or "Special Review of Thiamethoxam Risk to Aquatic Invertebrates, Proposed Decision for Consultation [PSRD2018-02](#)."

Given the result of the current special reviews and the re-evaluations and evaluations of risks to pollinators for the three neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, clothianidin, and thiamethoxam), PMRA is proposing a risk mitigation approach, similar to the [European Union](#), that would result in a phase-out and virtual ban of outdoor agricultural uses for all three neonicotinoids. Release of final decisions to protect pollinators for all three neonicotinoids are expected by the end of 2018. Final decisions for clothianidin and thiamethoxam on protecting aquatic life are expected in January 2020.