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Health Canada Intends to Phase-Out Imidacloprid

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Report Highlights:

Imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid seed-treatment insecticide sold under the trade name Admire, is currently under re-evaluation by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada. On November 23rd, 2016 the PMRA announced a proposed phase-out of the chemical for all agricultural uses, and a final decision is expected December 2017. The proposed re-evaluation decision is now open for public consultation until March 23, 2017.

Health Canada Intends to Phase-Out Imidacloprid

Imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid seed-treatment insecticide sold under the trade name Admire, is currently under re-evaluation by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada. On November 23rd, 2016 the PMRA announced a proposed phase-out of the chemical for all agricultural uses, and a final decision is expected December 2017. The proposed re-evaluation decision is now open for public consultation until March 23, 2017.

PMRA is inviting the public to submit comments on the proposed re-evaluation decision for imidacloprid including proposals that may refine the risk assessment and risk management. Open the "[Consultation Summary](#)" to access the document.

If you would like to comment, please contact:

Pest Management Regulatory Agency Publications Section
Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA)
Health Canada
2720 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
Address Locator: 6607D
K1A 0K9

E-mail: PMRA.publications@hc-sc.gc.ca
Telephone: 613-736-3799
Toll-free: 1-800-267-6315
Facsimile: 613-736-3758

Include the title of the consultation document on which you are commenting (PRVD2016-20: Imidacloprid). Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments and suggestions by March 23, 2017.

Health Canada will make the results of this consultation available on this website. Once the decision on imidacloprid is finalized, the PMRA will post a Re-evaluation Decision on the Pesticides and Pest Management [Reports and Publications](#) portion of Health Canada's website.

Imidacloprid is commonly used on corn and soybeans, as well as the following horticultural food: *Potatoes, Root Veg (1-B), Tuberous and Corn, Veg (1-D), Sweet Potato, Leaves of Root and Tuber Veg (2), Leafy Greens (4-A), Leafy Petioles (4-B), Brassica Leafy Veg (5), Legume Veg (6), Fruiting Veg (except cucurbits 8), Cucurbit Veg (9), Pome Fruit (11), Stone Fruit (12), Berry – small Fruit (130A,B,FG), Cranberry, Herbs (19-A), Globe Artichoke, Seed Treatments, In-Furrow, GH (drench and irrigation) Tomato, Cucumber, Pepper, Eggplant, Lettuce, Brassica 5A*

The phase-out was proposed after an evaluation determined that under current conditions of use, the environmental risks for most products containing imidacloprid do not meet current safety standards.

The environmental assessment showed that, in aquatic environments in Canada, imidacloprid is being measured at levels that are harmful to aquatic insects. Based on currently available information, the

continued high volume use of imidacloprid in agricultural areas is not perceived to be sustainable. The environmental assessment also found that there is a potential risk to birds and small mammals from feeding on seeds that are treated with imidacloprid, however, it is expected that good agricultural practices and equipment could reduce this type of exposure. The health assessment did not identify human health concerns from any exposure route when used according to current label standards.

The PMRA is proposing to phase-out all the agricultural and a majority of other outdoor uses of imidacloprid over three to five years. PMRA will consider alternate risk management proposals, provided that they can achieve acceptable levels in the environment in the same timeframe.

The PMRA proposal concerning imidacloprid is currently being discussed in hearings by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food.

In addition, in November 2016, PMRA initiated a special review of two other neonicotinoid class products. Consultations for clothianidin and thiamethoxam ended in March 2016 and as of June 1, 2016 Health Canada no longer grants new conditional registrations for pesticides with only a few exceptions: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/part/protect-proteger/conditional-conditionnel/index-eng.php>

Information on the decisions regarding clothianidin and thiamethoxam can be found here: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/decisions/rev2016-17/index-eng.php>

Current consultations on all proposed major registration decisions, such as new registrations or major new uses of a pesticide, re-evaluations or special reviews, can be found at the following URL: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/part/consultations/index-eng.php>