



Record of neonicotinoid bans across Europe and the world

October 2017

This document dresses an inventory of neonicotinoid bans and use restrictions in Europe and the rest of the world, whether they are already effective or planned. It is not meant to be exhaustive. It highlights the serious concerns of several European and American states about neonicotinoids that give rise to such use restrictions and bans.

European Union

Country / Zone	Which neonicotinoids? Which year?	Which uses?	Details and commentaries	References	Status
EU	Imidacloprid Thiamethoxam Clothianidin 2013	- Seed treatment including rapeseed, cotton, corn, soybean, sunflower, and spring straw cereals. - Foliar applications before blossoming for honey bee attracting plants species (defined list)	- European ban is partial: it only applies to specific crops and specific periods for insecticide spraying. - For instance, sugar beets and winter straw cereals are not concerned, even though the vast majority of these seeds are treated, especially in France, and mostly with imidacloprid.	EU Commission Implementing regulation n° 485/2013 May 24th 2013	In effect since December 1 st 2013
	Imidacloprid Thiamethoxam Clothianidin 2017 Project	- All uses except greenhouse crops	- The Commission justifies its proposition by insisting on elevated risks to honey bees, particularly because of dusts released when sowing. - These risks have been identified by the EFSA in several reviews from October 2016 (clothianidin , imidacloprid - Syngenta has still not furnished required information for thiamethoxam).	Commission proposal for a regulation SANTE/2016/12106	Project will be discussed among member states in the next few months

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France	All neonicotinoids	All plant protection products containing neonicotinoids, including seed dressing	<p>- The ban will come into force on September 1st 2018.</p> <p>- Exemptions to this prohibition may be granted until July 1st 2020 by joint order of the ministers responsible for agriculture, environment and health. This order is taken on the basis of a report prepared by the Anses (French assessment agency for health and environment). It will bring into comparison risks and benefits associated with uses of authorized neonicotinoid-based products with those of available substitute products or alternative methods. To this date, this report is still unpublished.</p> <p>- Reasons for this ban: parliamentary debates (leading to this ban) focused mainly on honeybee, pollinators and biodiversity protection.</p>	August 8th 2016, Biodiversity law, Art. 125	In effect from September 1 st 2018
Netherlands	Imidacloprid 2017	- Greenhouse crops on all the territory	<p>- The Dutch Board for the Authorization of Plant Protection Products and Biocides (Ctgb) forbids the use of phytopharmaceutical products containing imidacloprid (Admire, Gaucho Horticulture, Kohinor 700 WG, WOPRO Imidacloprid 70 WG) in greenhouses since March 15th 2017, unless the farmer can prove waste waters are at least 99.5% purified. This requirement is enforced and assessed with a certificate. According to the Ctgb, the purification technology is available. See its notification of January 16th 2017 in Dutch.</p> <p>- Reasons for the decision: "recent monitoring reports mention unacceptable and permanent levels of imidacloprid" in waters, and state that previous risk reduction measures were inefficient (cf. notification to EU & Ctgb release of September 9th 2016 in Dutch)</p> <p><i>"For years, surface water contamination by imidacloprid has been a subject of concern. Thus, in 2014, the Ctgb ordered the 99.5% purification of water effluents before their rejection. (...) In 2016, a monitoring study was missioned by the Ctgb to assess imidacloprid levels in surface waters in cucumber production areas. The State Secretary of Economic Affairs also missioned a compliance report. Conclusions of both reports, available in May, are the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Norms for imidacloprid based products are always largely transgressed; observed diminution is always insufficient to prevent contamination.</i> - <i>Requirement to treat effluents before their rejection in surface waters or waste waters did not have the expected effect.</i> - <i>Water effluent treatment before rejection is very rare, if it only exists."</i> <p>- See the 2016 annual report of the Ctgb.</p>	January 16 th 2017 Decision of the Board concerning plant protection products and biocides (Ctgb) in Dutch here	In effect since March 15 th 2017

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Germany	Imidacloprid Thiamethoxam Clothianidin 2015 (temporary ban) 2016 (permanent ban) (first restrictions in 2009)	- Importing and marketing of treated straw cereal seeds	<p>- The major reason for this ban is the release of dusts during sowing, that are toxic to honey bees.</p> <p>- Since 2009, Germany has adopted restrictions against the use of treated straw cereal seeds by not renewing the marketing authorization of the only permitted neonicotinoid for this function (Manta Plus).</p> <p>- In 2015, when Germany noticed the rise of foreign treated seeds imports, it decided to urgently adopt a law which strictly forbids importing, marketing, and sowing it. Germany conveyed a notification to EU featuring the following motives for this law: 1/ a vast infestation by the barley yellow-dwarf virus in Germany; 2/ The growing will of agricultural suppliers and farmers to import treated seeds; 3/ The need to protect bees from the dangers of these imports. See this notification to EU here with its reasons:</p> <p><i>« This year, barley and wheat were increasingly infected by the barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) which is transmitted by aphids. In some cases, this caused considerable crop failures. Information indicating that agricultural suppliers and farmers are therefore considering importing treated (dressed) seed from abroad is available. For example, a dressing with imidacloprid at 70 g active substance per 100 kg seed stock is permitted in France. Furthermore, French legislation places lower requirements on abrasion resistance than German legislation. The Julius Kühn Institute estimates the abrasion of imidacloprid at up to around 2 g abraded active substance per hectare of sown area. This corresponds approximately to the abrasion level in maize during 2008, which inflicted major damage on bees. According to crop trials conducted by the Julius Kühn Institute with oil-seed rape, abrasion values of over approx. 10 mg of active substance per hectare result in damage to bees if they fly over directly adjacent flowering areas. The risk to bees incurred by using the active substance in cereals is assessed as high to very high. Currently, winter cereals are expected to be sown on fewer directly adjacent flowering areas. However, flowering strips on field boundaries and flowering intermediate crops can increase the risk sharply. Considerable damage to bees cannot be excluded in the event of increased imports of dressed seeds for winter cereals, particularly in areas close to field boundaries»</i></p> <p>- In 2016, Germany made the 2015 ban permanent. See the Minister of Agriculture press release.</p>	<p>July 20th 2015 Regulation concerning marketing and sowing of winter cereal seeds treated with specific phytopharmaceutical products (Journal of legal notices AT 20.7.2015 V1, Journal of legal notices AT 23.7.2015 V1).</p> <p>July 22th 2016 Regulation about marketing and sowing of seeds treated with specific phytopharmaceutical products.</p>	In effect
	Imidacloprid Thiamethoxam Clothianidin 2009	-Importing and marketing of treated corn seeds	<p>- Reasons for the ban:</p> <p><i>« In the spring of 2008, several regions of Germany saw an increase in the number of bee deaths. Following intensive investigations carried out by the competent authorities, it was established that the primary cause was the dust generated when sowing treated seed corn while using certain seeders. »</i></p> <p>- See the notification and its motives here.</p>	February 11 th 2009 Decree concerning marketing and sowing of corn seeds treated with specific PPP (Federal Journal of legal notices 2009 n° 23, p. 519), modified by the article 5 of June 27 th 2013 decree (Federal Journal of legal notices I, p. 1953);	Obsolete since the EU ban on treated corn seeds.

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Italy	Imidacloprid Thiamethoxam Clothianidin (and fipronil) 2008 (Ban regularly extended until 2013 EU ban)	- Mainly corn seed treatment.	- No specific crop is concerned by 2008 decree. Therefore, the ban affected all treatment by then authorized (corn, sugar beet, potatoes and cotton – see page 4 HERE). Later, new decrees excluded sugar beets (2009), then potatoes (2009) from the ban. Concerning straw cereals, even though no decree revoking the ban can be clearly identified, it appears in the Italian phytosanitary base that Nuprid 600 FS (imidacloprid) has been authorized to treat wheat and barley seeds since 2011. If straw cereals were even affected by the ban to begin with, this has not been the case since. - Reasons for the ban: these products toxicities to honey bees when sowing, combined to substantial bee casualties during spring 2008 in several regions of north Italy.	- Decreto 17 settembre 2008 . Gazzetta Ufficiale n. 221 del 20 settembre 2008. - Decree regularly extended since – see for instance in 2011 and January 2013 .	The ban has not been extended since the 2013 European ban, which covers all the previously forbidden uses.
Slovenia	- Poncho FS 600 Red (clothianidin) - Cruiser 350 FS (thiamethoxam) - Cruiser 70 WS (thiamethoxam) - Biscaya (thiacloprid) 2011	- Corn and sugar beet seed treatment with Poncho FS 600 Red - Corn seed treatment with Cruiser 350 FS - Sugar beet seed treatment with Cruiser 70 WS - Biscaya spraying on rapeseed during blossoming period	- Mentioned reasons in the Order: “In order to prevent dangers to the environment” - It is worth to note that sugar beet and thiacloprid are affected by this ban.	Order of the Minister of Agriculture published in the Journal of legal notices of the republic of Slovenia on April 28 th 2011.	This Order has not been extended since the European ban.

Other initiative worth to mention:

- Belgium – Wallonia: in 2015, a resolution has been presented by some parliamentarians in order to totally ban some neonicotinoids. It is still under review by Wallonia’s institutions.

World

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Canada	Imidacloprid 2016/2017 Project	All field uses	<p>- Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) of Health Canada proposed on November 23rd 2016 to forbid all field uses of imidacloprid before three to five years.</p> <p>- Reasons for the project: the assessment of the substance by PMRA revealed the presence of imidacloprid in Canadian aquatic environments, at noxious levels for aquatic insects. The agency emphasizes the preponderant role of these insects in the ecosystem, as they represent alimentary resources to fishes, birds and other animals. The environmental assessment also highlights the potential risks for birds and small mammals. Reassessment did not include the impacts on pollinators, treated by another specific evaluation.</p> <p>- Worth to note: PMRA also initializes specific assessments for clothianidin and thiamethoxam.</p>	Decision project of reassessment PRVD2016-20, Imidacloprid, November 23 rd 2016 See HERE in French	Project A public consultation has been led on the text project from the end of 2016 to the beginning of 2017.
Ontario (Canada)	Imidacloprid Thiamethoxam Clothianidin 2015	Corn and soybean seed treatment	<p>Several restrictions coming into effect:</p> <p>- Since august 2015: the amount of treated seeds a farmer can buy must be less than half the amount needed to sow 50% of his fields, unless a specific report assesses the need for more.</p> <p>- Since august 2016: a formation to pest management is compulsory for the user; an assessment report signed by a pest management adviser is also compulsory.</p> <p>- Since august 2017: compulsory report from a pest management adviser about soil-transmitted parasites detection. These advisers must be "financially independent".</p> <p>In 2016, neonicotinoid-treated areas have been 24% reduced in comparison to 2014, thanks to the application of the first measures. The aim is to reach by 2017 an 80% reduction of the number of hectares under cultivation of neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seeds.</p> <p>Motives: "general overuse of treated seeds"; honey bee and pollinator protection (mean honey bee death rate reaches 34%, and set a record of 58% in 2014); water contamination.</p>	Ontario pesticide regulation See details HERE & HERE	In effect

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Quebec (Canada)	Imidacloprid Thiamethoxam Clothianidin Project 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All-crop spraying - Treated oat, wheat, barley, soybean, corn and rapeseed seeds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quebec government proposes a ban, with possible exemptions for farmers with an agronomist-signed certificate. - Moreover, it is planning to submit neonicotinoid seed treatments of specific crops to restrictions concerning sowing distance to lakes, streams, wetlands, water withdrawal sites and ditches. - Quebec is also envisaging forbidding the only neonicotinoid available on the consumer market: the imidacloprid for lawns. - Quebec is expecting the measure to be applicable in September 2018. - Project motive: « To slow the invariable use of neonicotinoids »; to protect honey bees and pollinators; to decrease rivers contamination and impacts on aquatic life; to reduce health hazard by decreasing direct neonicotinoid exposure and drinking water contamination risks. <p>See details in the Analysis of the regulatory impact of the Québec Pesticide Strategy 2015-2018 (French)</p> <p><i>“With these regulation modifications, the Minister aims to protect the environment and pollinators, but also all components of biodiversity, such as aquatic invertebrates, as well as promote maintenance of high-quality ecosystems. A recent review of 800 scientific studies highlighted that neonicotinoids have impacts on pollinators and other organisms such as birds, earthworms, and aquatic invertebrates. Indeed, since 2006-2007, we are witnessing an annual honey bee colony death rate higher than the 10-15% norm. Pollinator exposure to pesticides, especially neonicotinoids, is one of the main identified factors of their decline. Furthermore, upon announcing its decision of an imidacloprid reassessment on November 23rd, PMRA revealed that imidacloprid environmental hazards do not respect applicable safety norms, especially regarding aquatic invertebrates’ health. Thus, PMRA’s project intends to end the use of imidacloprid-based produces in farming among others (including professional lawn management, and golf courses) by three to five years. PMRA also initiates specific assessments for two other neonicotinoids, clothianidin and thiamethoxam, which are often detected in the aquatic environment as well. For that matter, the Minister observes the regular presence of neonicotinoids in several monitored rivers in Quebec, often at levels exceeding standards for aquatic life protection.”</i></p>	Modification project for the Regulation of allowance and certificates for pesticides marketing and use. See HERE in French.	In project A public consultation of the project has been led during the summer 2017.

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United States		No federal restriction yet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In May 2015, President Obama published his National strategy to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators. The text plans, among other things, a reassessment of neonicotinoid substances, which is still in progress. - It is based upon a 2015 study from the USDA (US department of Agriculture), which notes a 42% mean death rate of honey bee colonies in the territory. - It is also based on the concerning fate of the Monarch Butterfly, of which the decline is confirmed. - In the wake of this strategy, many states expressed their intention to regulate and restrain neonicotinoid uses (see below): Among these initiatives, some have not succeeded and some are still in progress (Alaska, Hawaii, Illinois, Vermont, Rhode Island, New-Jersey, etc.) 	National strategy to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators , May 2015	
Maryland (United States)	All neonicotinoids 2016	Individuals personal use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reasons: impacts on honey bees and pollinators. - According to a 2015 USDA study, Maryland witnessed a 60% hives death rate, compared to 42% for the rest of the country. 	Senate Bill 198 House Bill 211 Pollinator Protection Act of 2016	In effect as of January 1 st 2018
Connecticut (United States)	All neonicotinoids 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neonicotinoids become “Restricted-use pesticides”, thus being reserved to certified users. - Forbidden on lime tree. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reason: honeybee mortality - The text was supposed to forbid any use during blossoming period. However, the ban has been made insignificant by the creation of exemptions when “best management strategies” are applied. - Learn more on National Pest Management & Conservation Law Foundation websites. 	Senate Bill 231 May 2016	In effect