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**From:** jody spear  
**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2019 2:07 PM  
**To:** Pesticides <Pesticides@maine.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: neonics banned

Herewith an announcement of 12 neonic products just canceled by EPA. I wrote about the neonic threat to bees after a conference on pollinators sponsored by the board and UMCE, and I am forwarding that summary to you as well. As for the dozens more neonics not affected by the "compromise" ban, I ask that the board reconsider the use of these damaging insecticides.

Jody Spear

<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/epa-cancels-registrations-for-12-neonicotinoid-pesticides-65956>

[Home](#) / [News & Opinion](#)

# EPA Cancels Registrations for 12 Neonicotinoid Pesticides

The companies that market the products, Syngenta, Valent, and Bayer, are allowed to sell existing stock of the chemicals until 2020.

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Feedback

Out of concern for bees, the Environmental Protection Agency announced on May 20 that the registrations for 12 neonicotinoid-based products used as pesticides in agriculture would be canceled, according to a [notice on the Federal Register](#).

The companies that registered the pesticides, including Syngenta, Valent, and Bayer, voluntarily requested the cancellations as part of a settlement agreement with environmental groups in December 2018, reports *Bloomberg Environment*. The companies may continue to sell and distribute existing stock of the products until 2020, according to the notice.

The 12 products are among a total of 59 that contain the neonicotinoid ingredients clothianidin and thiamethoxam, according to *Bloomberg*. Neonicotinoids are systemic chemicals, meaning that when absorbed by a plant they can spread through the entire organism and are sometimes toxic to insects that feed on it.

### See “EU States Vote to Ban Neonicotinoids”

The settlement in December 2018 was related to the Endangered Species Act, according to *Bloomberg*. Beekeepers and environmental groups were putting pressure on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address the toxic effects of the pesticides on bees. In May 2017, a [federal court ruled](#) that the agency acted in violation of the Act when it registered 59 pesticides containing neonicotinoids.

Feedback Although the companies making the pesticides say that their products are rigorously tested before going to market, studies by academic researchers have shown that neonicotinoids are harmful to bees. The EPA is now legally bound to assess the effects of neonicotinoids on endangered species, reports *The Washington Post*.

### See “Bees’ Molecular Responses to Neonicotinoids Determined”

The EPA has canceled registrations for neonicotinoids in the past, says agency spokesperson John Konkus to the *Post*. “For the EPA to pull a previously registered pesticide is a pretty major step,” says Mark Winston of Simon Fraser University to the *Post*. “It’s not something they do very often.”

Experts say they are hopeful that removing neonicotinoid products from the market will benefit honeybee populations, and, in turn, food crops. “Today’s cancellation of these neonicotinoid pesticides is a hard-won battle and landmark step in the right direction,” says George Kimbrell, legal director at the Center for Food Safety, to *Bloomberg*.

### Keywords:

bees, ecology & environment, endangered species, Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, multimedia, neonicotinoids, neonics,

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