



2022 Legislative Memorandum

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Support - S699-B/A7429 (Hoylman/Englebright)

Riverkeeper strongly supports the passage of the Birds and Bees Protection Act, which prohibits neonicotinoid (neonics) insecticide coated seeds of corn, wheat, and soy in New York beginning January 1st, 2024.

Neonics prohibited by the legislation include clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, dinotefuran, and acetamiprid. These active ingredients are known to cause harmful effects to aquatic life, pollinators, and many birds.

Alternatives to neonics are readily available, and cost effective. **A study conducted on neonic replacements, found in 96% of cases neonics can be replaced by effective and directly usable alternative pest control methods.**¹ In 78% of cases, at least one non-chemical alternative method can replace neonics.

Neonics are a widely used neurotoxic insecticide that have been linked to massive losses of bee and insect populations across the world. Studies have shown that U.S. agriculture is now 48 times more toxic to insects than thirty years ago and neonics are primarily responsible for this increase in toxicity.² Additionally, neonics accounted for 92% of total agricultural insect-toxicity from 1992-2014.

In addition to the detrimental impacts to pollinators and bird species, neonics have been linked to negative human health impacts.³ Human exposure to neonics have been found in half of the American population⁴, and have even been found in low levels in baby food and commonly consumed fruits and vegetables.⁵

In the last 15 years, neonic use has increased nationwide, including here in New York. In 2014, between 70 to 76 U.S. tons of neonic active ingredients were used in the state of New York.⁶ Neonic's have been found in the Hudson River estuary, including concentrations of acetamiprid and imidacloprid. **One study in Japan, saw the complete collapse of a local fishery after the introduction of the common neonic imidacloprid.**⁷

¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412019302351?via%3Dihub#screen-reader-main-title>

² <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0220029>

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5289916/>

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31288196>

⁵ <https://ehjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12940-018-0441-7>

⁶ <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/impacts-neonics-in-ny-water-report.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/neonicotinoid-insecticides-cause-fish-declines-japan>