

Neonicotinoid Pesticides in Minnesota

Neonicotinoids (“neonics”) coat nearly all corn seed and about 45% of soy seed planted in Minnesota, but only 5% of the chemical is absorbed by the plant. The rest washes into our soil, rivers, and drinking water, with mounting evidence of harm to wildlife and human health.

The Scale of the Problem

- **40,000 kg** of neonics sold for agricultural use in Minnesota in 2020 alone
- **12 million acres** of Minnesota farmland treated with neonics in 2020
- **95% of Minnesota surface waters** tested by the MN Dept of Agriculture (2011–2022) contained neonics
- **10-41% of Minnesota springs and wells** contain neonics

Harm to Wildlife

- The EPA finds neonics potentially jeopardize 200 endangered species
- Neonics are driving declining bird and mayfly populations
- They are linked to weakened honeybee hive survival, reproduction, memory, and foraging ability
- They harm aquatic insects that fish—including Minnesota trout—depend on for food

Harm to Human Health

- Neonics are linked to reproductive, metabolic, and endocrine harm
- Pregnant women exposed to neonics show higher rates of delivery problems
- Prenatal exposure is associated with higher risk of developmental issues in children

The Solution: Verification of Need

Minnesota needs a “verification of need” program that requires the MN Dept of Agriculture to:

- 1) **Confirm neonics are necessary for a given field before treated seed can be used, and**
- 2) **Guarantee access to untreated seed for farmers who don’t need it.**

Ask your representatives to support a neonic verification of need in the next session.

Source: “[Poisoning the Well: Neonicotinoids in Minnesota](#),” Dawn Georgieff. Compiled from MDA, EPA, and peer-reviewed research. See sc.org/mn-neonic to learn more.

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