

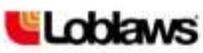
MEDIA ADVISORY

Important bee-friendly flower and plant purchasing advice *Making informed choices at Canadian plant and garden centres*

Last year, Friends of the Earth tested flowers in 18 cities across North America and discovered over half contained bee-toxic neonicotinoids. (See [Gardeners Beware 2014](#)).

This year's Canadian site test results will be published in June 2015. In the interim, Friends of the Earth Canada is calling on consumers to ask their garden centre's staff what is being done to stop the use of neonicotinoids.

This chart and the info link below it, represents the best current and available advice from Friends of the Earth Canada to help gardeners make the best purchasing choices for bee-friendly flowers at Canadian garden centres.

Retailer	Labelling	Phasing out the use of Neonicotinoids	Working with vendors and suppliers	Employee Awareness	Customer Awareness
	Working on a labelling system to be unveiled towards the end of 2015	Does not currently sell any off-the-shelf pesticides that include neonicotinoids	Working with industry, vendors and regulators to reduce impacts on the environment	Site visit by FOE, no employee awareness of neonicotinoids	N/A
	Requires its suppliers to label plants treated with neonicotinoids	N/A	Running tests to see if suppliers can eliminate neonicotinoids in their plant production	Site visit by FOE, no employee awareness of neonicotinoids	N/A
	N/A	Distribution centres do not carry products with neonicotinoids	N/A	Working to educate Home Hardware Dealer-Owners on neonicotinoids link to honey bee mortalities	N/A
	Has considered developing a labelling system	N/A	Has consulted with the grower community about alternative products and treatments.	Site visit by FOE, no employee awareness of neonicotinoids	N/A
	Lowe's has committed to providing in-store product labels, which are not currently available. Date TBD.	Will phase out the sale of products that contain neonicotinoid pesticides by Spring 2019	Working with growers to eliminate the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on the plants they sell	Educating employees with in-store resources such as brochures, fact sheets and product labels	Providing in-store resources such as brochures, fact sheets and product labels, with expanded content available on their website
	In 2016, all plant suppliers will be required to label plants treated with neonicotinoids	In 2015 70% of all plants sold in corporate RONA and Réno-Dépôt stores were grown without neonicotinoids	Encouraging their suppliers to reduce the use of neonicotinoid insecticides	N/A	Employees can check the SKU numbers on plants to check if they are neonicotinoid-free until the labelling system is in place <small>*personal conversation with FOE</small>
	N/A	Working with their 500+ suppliers to phase-out neonicotinoids in their stores, with no set date of completion	Told their suppliers they will no longer accept nursery plants treated with neonicotinoids	N/A	N/A

For additional detail go to: <http://foecanada.org/en/retailer-actions-on-neonicotinoids>

For more information, or to schedule interviews, please contact:

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Friends of the Earth Canada (www.foecanada.org) is the Canadian member of Friends of the Earth International, the world's largest grassroots environmental network campaigning on today's most urgent environmental and social issues.

Bees are critical to food security

Two-thirds of the food crops humans eat everyday require bees and other pollinators to successfully produce a crop. However, the health and productivity of honeybees, bumblebees, and other pollinators are in great peril and populations are dwindling worldwide.

Although honey bee losses have been linked to multiple factors, a strong and growing body of scientific evidence has shown that the use of neonicotinoid pesticides are a major contributing factor to bee die-offs.

What are Neonicotinoids?

- Neonicotinoids (neonics) are systemic pesticides that are absorbed into plant tissues. Once applied, they spread through the entire plant, including the stems, flowers, pollen and nectar.
- Neonicotinoids can poison bees directly, and even low-level exposure can lead to sub-lethal effects such as altered learning, impaired foraging and immune suppression.
- Neonicotinoids are used on virtually 100% of corn seed, and on a large percentage of soy, wheat, and canola seed.
- Neonicotinoids are applied to crops using seed coatings, sprays, soil drenches and granules.