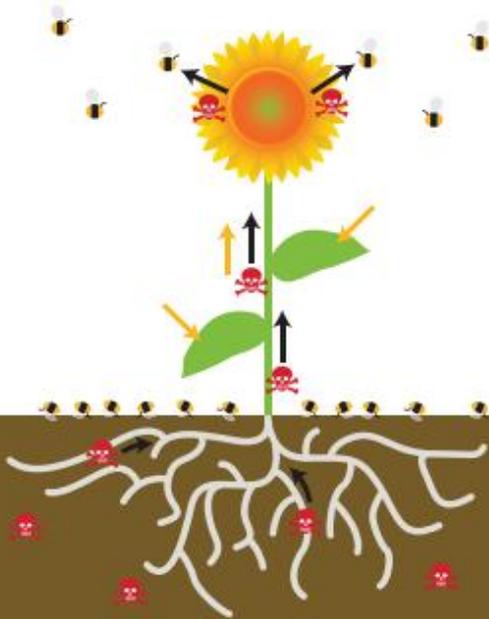


Direction on the Bee Safe Boulder Resolution, including analysis and preliminary options

Rella Abernathy, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator
Kathleen Alexander, City Forester



- Movement of systemic pesticides absorbed by soil
- Movement of pesticide residues from foliar sprays



SYSTEMIC PESTICIDES ARE ABSORBED FROM THE SOIL BY THE ROOTS AND TRANSPORTED TO OTHER PARTS OF THE PLANT

Properties of Neonicotinoids

Highly Water Soluble

Systemic – Throughout Plant

Leaching into Water

Highly Persistent

Plant, soil and water

Extremely Toxic at Low Doses

Acute and chronic

From Friends of the Earth, 2014 Gardener's Beware Report



Bee Safe Boulder

Jan 20 – Presented resolution to ban neonicotinoids on city properties

Contact Us Today! | beesafeboulder@gmail.com

Sign Up | Volunteer



Home About Get Involved? Events Bee Safe Gardening Pledge Page Science/News

Contact 

Let's Make All of Boulder County Bee Safe!



Donate

Bee Safe Boulder gladly welcomes donations for operating expenses as well as special projects. Your donation is tax-exempt through Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, a non-profit that supports us. [Learn More...](#)

[Donate](#)



Bee Safe Boulder is a volunteer community organization, located in Boulder County, Colorado that invites other neighbors nearby to join together to create neighborhoods that are safe for bees and all living beings. If we can work together to educate ourselves, and encourage the elimination of systemic

Resolution Content



1. The application of neonics
2. Urging improvements in governmental regulation of neonics
3. Use of landscaping materials pre-treated with neonics
4. Education and outreach

Key Issues



- Application of neonicotinoids
- Procurement of plants and landscaping materials that could be pre-treated with neonicotinoids

City Actions in Alignment with Resolution

- Neonics banned for all purposes, except rare tree applications under stringent conditions
- Additional precautions for trees
 - No foliar applications
 - Never allowed on insect-pollinated trees
 - Full site assessment required
 - Must be no other alternatives for significant trees
 - Working with scientists, other local governments and non-profits to review process
- Imidacloprid prohibited for emerald ash borer
- Relocation of bees during pruning or removal
- Planting bee-attractive plants

City Actions in Alignment with Resolution



- City staff been working on procurement of neonic-free plants for two years
- Hired consultant to develop phase-out plan
- Parks Operations purchased all neonic-free plants for this season
- Forestry working with Purchasing to assist in purchasing neonic-free trees

Options

1. **Adopt** the Bee Safe Boulder Resolution **as presented** with complete ban of neonicotinoids on city properties with no exemptions.
2. **Adopt** the Bee Safe Boulder Resolution supporting a ban of neonicotinoids on city properties **with a exemption process** when the life or health of a significant or valuable tree is at risk. Include an exemption for research studies. Partner with Bee Safe Boulder and other organizations to collaborate on the final draft for city council.
3. **Do not adopt** the Bee Safe Boulder Resolution.

Staff and Bee Safe Boulder Recommendation

Option 2:

Adopt the Bee Safe Boulder Resolution supporting a ban of neonicotinoids on city properties with a exemption process when the life or health of a significant or valuable tree is at risk. Include an exemption for research studies. Partner with Bee Safe Boulder and other organizations to collaborate on the final draft for city council.

Application of Neonics

(Page 317)

Section 1: That the city will not apply ~~procure nor use neonicotinoid products, or products containing neonicotinoid-~~ active ingredients for any purpose on its city-managed parks, playing fields, rights of way, along watersheds and ditches, open space lands ~~either solely or jointly owned , public landscaping,~~ public trees and landscapes or in its buildings or other areas under its ownership and jurisdiction, **with exceptions only being allowed under a rigorous, transparent exemption process for the application of neonicotinoids for the purposes of a (1) a well-defined research study; or (2) when the life or health of a valuable or significant tree is threatened and neonicotinoid application is the least environmentally impactful option.**

Improvements in governmental regulation of neonics

Section 2: That the city hereby urges all related parties, both public and private, at the county, state and federal levels to suspend ~~use of all~~ neonicotinoids **for use in seed treatment, soil application or foliar treatment on bee attractive plants, trees and cereals in urban and agricultural settings**, until a proper scientific, legal and regulatory review of their impacts on honeybees, other pollinators, natural enemies and non-target organisms is completed and a full public health and environmental assessment proves their safety.

Landscaping materials pre-treated with neonics

Did not include city purchasing

Section 3: That the city **will seek to purchase landscaping materials, including plants and seeds, that have not been treated with neonicotinoids and hereby urges all businesses, homeowners and HOAs and ~~pest service companies~~ operating within the city to take similar steps to ensure no plants, seeds or products containing neonicotinoids are purchased, sold or used within the city.**

Education and outreach



Section 4: That the city recognizes the importance of pollinators and their services, and will support and actively engage in efforts to educate the broader community about the actions it is taking; and, furthermore, the city will encourage other entities, businesses, schools, neighborhoods and households, and also the county, state and the federal governments to adopt similar policies.

Board Feedback

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

- Unanimously support staff recommendation
- Suggested city plant more pollinator-friendly plants/habitat

Environmental Advisory Board

- Unanimously support staff recommendation
- Suggest that city holds a “Bee Day” or “Pollinator Day” with partner groups to engage children and the public
- Work with non-profits to partner in outreach and education

Tree Exemption Process

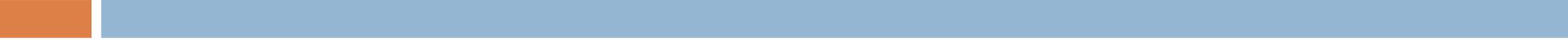
Currently:

- Nearly all neonic uses prohibited (turf, ornamentals, flowering bee-attractive trees)
- Only one neonic used for trees under stringent conditions (Average of 28 trees a year of 38,000 over last 10 years)
- Most uses being phased out due to lack of efficacy
- Formalizing exemption process with vetting by scientists and non-profits

Tree Exemption Process

- Collaborate with partner local governments, scientists and nonprofit organizations to review process
- Process (hand out)
 - Step 1 - Tree treatment decision-making process
 - Step 2 – Is a neonicotinoid an appropriate choice?
- Transparent
- Expected to result in very few treatments

Next Steps



1. Inspire Boulder
2. Radio and Channel 8 interviews
3. Monday, April 13 - Open house – McGuckin's
4. May 5 - Public hearing for resolution adoption
5. Ongoing education and outreach

Direction for Staff Recommendation

- Feedback and questions
- Direction for staff recommendation of proposed “Resolution Concerning the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides in the City of Boulder” (Attachment A)