

## Save the Bees! EPA Considers Allowing Bee-Killing Pesticide to Be Sprayed on 165 Million Acres of US Farmland

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will consider allowing the pesticide thiamethoxam to be sprayed on the most widely grown crops in the U.S. If the application is approved, it would allow the highly toxic pesticide to be sprayed directly on [165 million acres](#) of wheat, barley, corn, sorghum, alfalfa, rice and potato.

Neonicotinoids are a class of [pesticides](#) known to have both acute and chronic effects on aquatic invertebrates, honeybees, birds, butterflies and other pollinator species; they are a major factor in overall pollinator declines. In January the EPA released a [preliminary assessment](#) of on-field exposures to thiamethoxam that found all uses of the pesticide—on plants, soil and seeds—result in exposures that exceed the level of concern for acute and chronic risk to adult bees. But the agency has taken no steps to restrict use of these products and is now considering expanding their use.

A large and growing body of independent science links neonicotinoids to catastrophic bee declines. Twenty-nine independent scientists who conducted a global review of more than 1,000 independent studies on neonicotinoids found overwhelming evidence linking the pesticides to declines in populations of bees, birds, earthworms, butterflies and other wildlife.

It just takes 2-3 minutes to leave a comment for the EPA, as they consider this request from Syngenta, the pharmaceutical company who makes the pesticide. Comments accepted until April 21st, 2018.

EPA website - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/open-comment-pesticide-actions-and-documents> - go to page 2 and move to the bottom for Thiamethoxam, then click on Comment Now.

Or go directly to the regulations.gov website to enter your comments:  
<https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0581-0102>

More info:

<http://www.newsweek.com/epa-bee-killing-pesticide-american-farmland-756130>

<https://www.ecowatch.com/syngenta-neonicotinoids-2518688773.html>