

**ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT**  
**NJ Legislative Bill (S1016)**  
**Ban on Use of Neonicotinoid Insecticides in NJ**

*Description: On March 5, 2020, the New Jersey Senate passed Bill S1016 (legislation introduced by Senator Bob Smith) that bans the use of toxic neonicotinoids on non-agricultural settings such as lawns and golf courses.*

The New Jersey ban would impact the landscape industry which is the largest abuser of neonicotinoid overuse in the state. Next, will be discussion of a bill in the NJ Assembly. If the ban passes there, it will become the strongest anti-neonicotinoid legislation in the U.S.A. Currently, there is no Federal action banning the use of neonicotinoids a.k.a. neonics. Interestingly, they are banned in Europe.

As a reminder to everyone of the importance of banning neonics ... These types of toxic insecticides are systemic chemicals which are absorbed by the entire plant and dispersed through it's tissue, including the pollen and nectar. This makes consuming the toxic residue deadly to pollinators during pollination. Furthermore, evidence has also shown that water run-off causes the neonics to absorb into the soil contaminating future plants and into waterways leading to the contamination of aquatic invertebrates. This ripple effect harms entire ecosystems.

Lastly, the NJ Legislation is positive news for a potential ban on the use of these dangerous insecticides; unfortunately, the bill as written does not include agricultural crops. Thus, please be aware, the Jersey grown fruits, vegetables, nuts and grains, that we enjoy eating can still be treated with neonic insecticides. Thus, leading to the consumption of harmful residue by both the bees that pollinate the plants and the people who consume the crops and their by-products.

UPDATE: