



Northeast
Agribusiness
& Feed Alliance

Legislative Bans of Pesticide Products

Background:

Several legislative proposals would prohibit the use of pesticide products in New York State. These bills threaten significant harm to New York's agriculture and green industry and ignores the science-based decisions rendered by the NYS Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation.

The following bills would ban the use of one or more pesticides in New York:

- S.5816/ A.7639-A (Hoylman/Englebright) bans neonicotinoids, fipronil
- S.223/ A.6877 (Hoylman/ Steck) bans glyphosate until a taskforce study studies safety
- S.225 (Hoylman) bans glyphosate and products containing glyphosate
- S.1074 (Hoylman) bans atrazine, metalaxyl, neonicotinoids
- S.6643 (Kaminsky) bans Sulfoxaflor
- A.8116 (Colton) ban neonicotinoids

The Department of Environmental Conservation is charged with reviewing and registering pesticide products before they can be used in New York (Article 33, EnCon Law). The extensive review process requires determinations of no unreasonable threats to water quality, wildlife and humans. The review and evaluation process involve experts from the NYS Water Resources Institute, the Department of Health, the Division of Wildlife, in addition to the experts from DEC's Bureau of Pesticides.

The economic impact of pesticide bans to New York's green industry and agriculture would be devastating. Prominent examples include cabbage maggot, tick management, white grubs in turf, annual bluegrass weevil in golf turf, and invasive species of insects attacking ash and maple trees.

Imidacloprid, which is included in the neonicotinoid class of insecticides, is widely used for the control of from insect damage to fruit vegetables and field crops. Imidacloprid is also an excellent product for treating maple trees for the invasive Asian Long Horned Beetle and in treating ash trees for a newly introduced invasive insect, the Emerald Ash Borer.

Banning a pesticide doesn't mean it isn't going to be replaced with another product. It is also important to weigh the possible alternative products that could be used in replacement and determine if such a ban will do more harm than good.

Request:

Resist the temptation to impose politics over science. Legislative bans of pesticide products, reviewed and approved by DEC, usurp science-based policy, set a bad precedent for New York State and places agriculture and horticulture industries at a significant competitive disadvantage to competition from other states and countries.

New York is only one of two states that extensively reviews and evaluates pesticide products before permitting their use. This unique program, which consists of a partnership between DEC and DOH, must be maintained and supported.

IPM's use of best management practices (BMPs) for pest control provides for science-based state of the art pest control practices which may not involve pesticides. Nevertheless, pesticides must remain part of the IPM "toolbox" as they can be the best practice for specific pest control situations.