The Value of Neonicotinoids to U.S. Turf and Ornamental Professionals

Neonicotinoid insecticides are important tools for professionals across the U.S. turf and ornamental industry. A recent survey by AgInformatics, a group of independent agricultural economists and scientists, examines the value of neonicotinoids by assessing how turf and ornamental professionals are using these tools—and the impact it would have on them if these insecticides were no longer available. The survey interviewed 750 professionals, of which 87 percent indicated that they use insecticides in their businesses.

Top Factors in Choosing an Insecticide

- Protecting the Quality of the Plant: 98%
- Consistent Pest Control: 96%
- Safety to Applicator: 96%
- Safety to Customer: 95%

Primary Business Focus of Survey Respondents

- Landscape Ornamentals: 25%
- Greenhouse: 24%
- Lawn: 19%
- Nursery: 15.5%
- Trees: 15.5%

Expected Impacts From Losing Neonicotinoids

- Lower Customer Satisfaction
- Less Able to Control Invasive Pests
- Lower Quality of Plants or Services
- Less Able to Manage Pest Resistance

Perceived Availability of Neonicotinoid Alternatives

- 27% of professionals expect to see no acceptable alternatives to neonicotinoids
- 59% expect to see more than enough acceptable alternatives
- 14% expect to see not enough acceptable alternatives

Top 3 Concerns With Using Neonicotinoid Alternatives

- 78%: More Applications & Higher Cost
- 67%: Increased Management Time
- 38%: Greater Health and Safety Risk

AgInformatics, LLC, is an agricultural consulting firm established in 1995 by professors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Washington State University. The research was jointly commissioned by Bayer CropScience, Syngenta and Israel-U.S.A., with additional support from Mitsui on the turf and ornamental studies.

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