



NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDE USE IN CEREAL GRAIN CROPS

Title 3, California Code of Regulations (3 CCR) sections 6990 through 6990.16

WHAT: The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has adopted regulations to limit neonicotinoid pesticide product use in the production of certain agricultural commodities. The new regulations apply to soil and foliar applications of products containing clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam. The regulations do not apply to neonicotinoid use in non-agricultural (e.g., structural or home use) or non-production agricultural (e.g., parks, cemeteries) settings, or to seed treatment applications.

WHY: Pollinators, such as honeybees, are critical to growers and the entire agricultural industry, as well as to the consumers of the commodities produced. Neonicotinoid pesticide products may present hazards to honeybees and other pollinators. Pollinators can be exposed to neonicotinoids, through contact with residues or by ingesting contaminated pollen or nectar since neonicotinoids are systemic pesticides that move through the plant's tissue. DPR adopted these regulations to protect pollinators from risks from exposure to neonicotinoids in agricultural crops.

HOW: To mitigate these identified risks to pollinators, these new regulations have crop-specific rate and application timing restrictions. Statewide, the regulations are expected to reduce the amount of neonicotinoid pesticides used and acres treated.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Product labels will not be updated with these requirements. Those selling, recommending, buying, or using these products should be aware of these regulations. Growers and applicators must follow the new regulations if applicable. These regulations apply in addition to any requirements found on neonicotinoid product labeling. In the event of a conflict between labeling requirements and these regulations, the strictest requirement must be followed.

PRODUCTS IMPACTED

As of June 2023, there are over 50 products covered by the new regulations. Below are the top neonicotinoid products used in cereal grain crops for each active ingredient. This information was compiled using publicly available data by products with the highest number of applications in 2022. The identification of these products is intended for educational purposes only to inform growers and applicators of the most commonly used pesticide products in cereal grain crops that would be subject to DPR's neonicotinoid regulations.

1. Clothianidin: Belay Insecticide (EPA Reg. No. 59639-150-AA)
2. Dinotefuran: None reported
3. Imidacloprid: None reported
4. Thiamethoxam: None reported

Example of Cereal Grain Crops

- Buckwheat
- Canarygrass
- Corn (field, sweet, baby, & pop)
- Millet (barnyard, finger, foxtail, pearl, proso)
- Quinoa
- Sorghum (milo)
- Teff
- Teosinte
- Wild rice
- Cultivars, varieties, and hybrids of these commodities



California Department of
Pesticide Regulation

**Before making any agricultural applications of
neonicotinoids, BEE sure to review the regulations!**
Please scan the QR code to view the regulation text.

Revised September 2024



3 CCR SECTION 6990.3. NEONICOTINOID USE ON CEREAL GRAINS

Unless the application is exempted by section 6990(c), or the neonicotinoid product is applied to a specific exempt cereal grain crop noted below, the following restrictions apply:

1. PROHIBITION DURING HEADING TO HARVEST

Application of a neonicotinoid is prohibited from heading (inflorescence or tassel emergence) to harvest.

2. TOTAL MAXIMUM COMBINED APPLICATION RATE

If both soil and foliar application methods are used on the same crop, or if multiple neonicotinoid active ingredients are applied to the same crop, a total maximum combined application rate of 0.326 lbs. active ingredient (ai)/Acre (A)/season may be applied, provided: (1) Soil application rate must not exceed 0.2 lbs. ai/A/season; and (2) Foliar application rate must not exceed 0.126 lbs. ai/A/season.

3. RATE AND TIMING RESTRICTIONS

If managed pollinators will be used during the growing season, the application rate and timing restrictions listed in the table below apply.

Exempt cereal grains: Applications to barley, oats, rice (*Oryza sativa*), rye, triticale, or wheat are allowed without additional restrictions. Always follow product labeling requirements.

Active Ingredient	Soil Application		Foliar Application	
	Maximum Application Rate	Required Timing	Maximum Application Rate	Required Timing
Clothianidin, Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, or Thiamethoxam	0.2 lbs. ai/A/season	Apply only at pre-planting or planting	0.126 lbs. ai/A/season	Apply only between preplanting until heading (inflorescence or tassel emergence)

For applications to non-exempt crops before heading: if managed pollinators will not be used with the crop, then a single soil or foliar application of one active ingredient following label instructions is allowed without additional restrictions.

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE REGULATIONS – Section 6990(c)

1. An application made to an agricultural commodity grown inside an enclosed space, insect exclusionary structure/netting
2. An application made to address a local emergency or to control a quarantine pest
3. An application allowed under an active “Section 18” Emergency Exemption
4. An application authorized for research purposes to support a proposed amendment to these regulations

The product labeling must still be followed!

For questions contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner:
www.cdfa.ca.gov/exec/county/countymap

For more information on the regulations, visit the following links:
www.cdpr.ca.gov/neonicotinoiduse/
<https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/rulepkgs/22-001/22-001.htm>