CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS EDUCATION FUND

Neonics

Neonicotinoids or “neonics”, the most widely used insecticides in the US, have been linked to massive losses of bees and other pollinators, declining bird populations, threats to aquatic insects and fish, and human health harms, especially in children.

Rivers: Neonics are found in Connecticut rivers at levels deadly to aquatic life.

- US Geological Survey studies show they are in 53% of US streams including 56% of the CT rivers tested.
- USGS data shows the presence of neonics in CT groundwater, which is concerning in a state that relies heavily on well water.

Economic: Some Uses are ineffective and provide no net economic benefit.

- Studies show seed treatment on row crops (corn, soybean) does not increase yields and provides no economic benefit to farmers (Cornell).
- Studies show use on lawns to control grub is ineffective

Human Health: Neonics affect the human neurological system.

- Studies show harm to heart and brain development in prenatally exposed children; decreased sperm quality and quantity, and decreased testosterone.
- The CDC found neonics in 50% of the population with the highest concentrations found in children.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Senate Bill 9 (SB 9) is a comprehensive piece of environmental legislation introduced in the 2025 Connecticut General Assembly. Among its many provisions, SB 9 incorporates language from HB 6916 that addresses the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. The bill aims to eliminate non-essential uses of neonics on lawns and ornamental landscapes in an effort to protect pollinators and safeguard public health.

However, environmental advocates have raised concerns that pressure from industry stakeholders may lead to exemptions for ornamental landscaping, potentially weakening the bill’s intended impact. SB 9 represents a critical opportunity to regulate harmful pesticides, but its effectiveness will depend on maintaining strong, uncompromised language during the legislative process.

MORE INFORMATION

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