

SAVE OUR SEED TREATMENTS

Decisions on pesticide availability
must be based on science to
ensure the continued supply of
safe, plentiful and affordable food

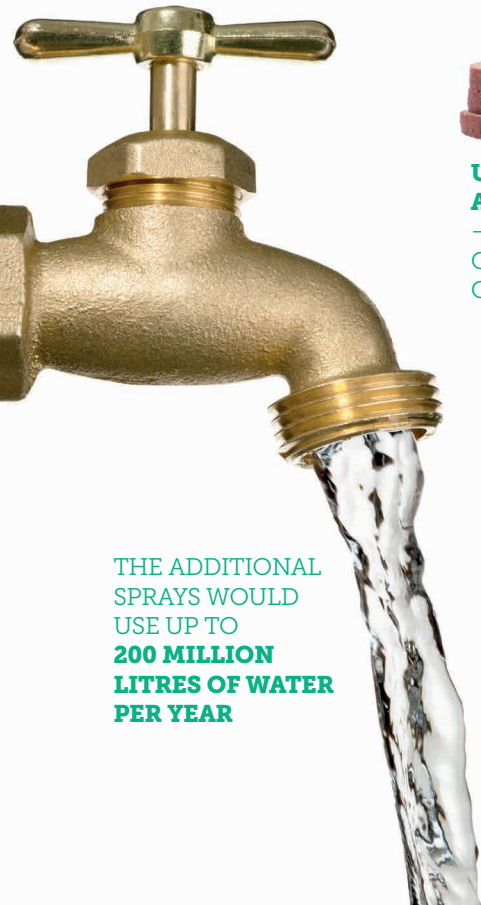
#SAVEOURSEEDTREATMENTS

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

The European Commission has put forward proposals that would effectively ban all uses of three neonicotinoids – clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam – on outdoor crops.

WHAT WOULD THE IMPACT OF A BAN BE?

A ban would affect around one million hectares of arable crops, including cereals and sugar beet, where there are no effective alternatives to neonicotinoid seed treatments. It would also affect significant area of vegetable crops.



THE ADDITIONAL
SPRAYS WOULD
USE UP TO
200 MILLION
LITRES OF WATER
PER YEAR



UK WHEAT YIELDS WOULD DECREASE BY AT LEAST 0.6 TONNES PER HECTARE

– THE EQUIVALENT OF 1 MILLION TONNES OF WHEAT PER YEAR OR 4½ MILLION LOAVES OF BREAD LOST EVERY DAY IN THE UK



INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL
EXPERTS AGREE FIT-FOR-PURPOSE
POLICY REQUIRES FURTHER RESEARCH
INTO HOW POLLINATOR POPULATIONS
ARE AFFECTED BY NEONICOTINOID
USE IN FARMING



THERE IS NO CLEAR COMPELLING EVIDENCE THAT NEONICOTINOID SEED TREATMENTS ARE CAUSING WIDESPREAD **DECLINES IN BEE POPULATIONS**



THE LOSS OF NEONICOTINOID WOULD IMPACT ON VEGETABLE PRODUCTION AS THERE ARE **NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR APHID CONTROL IN BRASSICAS AND LETTUCE**



WITHOUT EFFECTIVE SEED TREATMENTS, IT IS ESTIMATED UP TO **AN EXTRA 1,600 TONNES OF SLUG PELLETS** COULD HAVE TO BE USED – AN **OVERALL INCREASE IN USE OF 60 PER CENT**



USING MORE SPRAYS **INCREASES THE RISK OF IMPACTS ON BENEFICIAL CREATURES** LIKE LACEWINGS, LADYBIRDS, SPIDERS AND GROUND BEETLES

WITHOUT SEED TREATMENTS, **AN ESTIMATED ONE MILLION HECTARES OF CROPS WOULD NEED EXTRA SPRAYS** WITH INSECTICIDES – AN AREA HALF THE SIZE OF WALES



In 2013, the Humboldt Forum for Food and Agriculture report stated a ban on neonicotinoids would cost the EU €17 billion over five years, and result in around three million hectares of crop production would be lost to the EU which would have to be replaced by imports from countries which have not been denied access to these treatments.

DOES THE EVIDENCE SUPPORT A BAN?

No, it doesn't. While our understanding of the issues around neonicotinoids and bees has improved significantly in recent years, there is still no clear evidence that neonicotinoids are causing widespread declines in bee populations. The evidence certainly isn't clear enough to underpin a single course of action like blanket bans.

Scientists at the world-leading agricultural research centre Rothamsted Research recently questioned the evidence behind neonicotinoid bans and re-iterated that it still does not provide a clear steer for policy-makers. The reality is pollinators are up against multiple challenges, not least pests and diseases, loss of habitat, changing climate, invasive species and chemicals in the environment.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ✓ Write to your MP/MEP explaining what the impact of a blanket ban would be on your farm business.
- ✓ Get your MP/MEP out on farm so they can see first-hand how neonicotinoids help you to farm and what the impact of a ban would be.
- ✓ Get involved with Twitter - use a picture of you on farm and a simple, easy-to-understand statement that explain how neonicotinoid seed treatments and/or foliar sprays help to control pests on your farm. Use the hashtag #saveourseedtreatments. Tag Phil Hogan, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development (@EU_Commission; @EU_Agri), and Vytenis Andriukaitis, the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety (@V_Andriukaitis).
- ✓ The more individual farming voices that get involved in the debate, the louder farming's voice will be, and the more impact it will have. Check out the Crop Protection pages on NFUOnline for information and updates.