



MILKWEED RISING....GARDENING WITH A PURPOSE

Guide to Creating a Neonicotinoid-Free Pollinator Garden

Neonicotinoid insecticides are “new nicotine-like” nerve poisons that make all parts of a plant poisonous, kill all insects with which they come into contact (including pollinators), affect aquatic ecosystems and bird populations, may impact humans and mammals as they break down, and are applied on our food crops and introduced to our water supplies worldwide. And even though neonicotinoids are known to kill bees and persist in plants and on soil for years, there are no regulations in place preventing sellers from marketing neonicotinoid-treated plants as “bee-friendly”, “attractive to butterflies”, or “great for pollinator gardens”.

Game Plan to Keep Neonicotinoids Out of the Pollinator Garden

- **Garden Organically.** A few sources of instruction and inspiration include **Rodale Press, Storey Publishing, Mother Earth News, Timber Press, and your local Extension Agent.**
- **Read Labels.** Don’t buy or apply products that contain imidacloprid, acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, nithiazine, thiacloprid, thiamethoxam, or the related chemical, sulfoxaflor.
- **Ask to See the Written Neonicotinoid Policy of Your Nursery or Home Center.** Shop from nurseries and home centers that: 1) do not use neonicotinoids themselves; and 2) either grow all their own plants from untreated seed or purchase plants for resale that were grown without neonicotinoids.
- **Search Out Local Native Plant Nurseries.** Find native plant nurseries in your state using a directory like the one found on the [Plant Native site](#).
- **Plant Seeds.** These companies are examples of many that have made a commitment to offering a variety of seeds that have not been treated with neonicotinoids: **Prairie Moon, Seeds of Change, High Mowing Organic Seeds, Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, Botanical Interests, Peaceful Valley, Renee’s Garden, Seed Saver’s Exchange, and Territorial Seed Company.** You can find them online or, increasingly, at your local farm supply store, nursery, or home and hardware store.

Find more information on neonicotinoids at: www.MilkweedRising.com/neonicotinoids-pollinator-garden/.