

In regards to Rule number 25P031, I strongly agree with the recommendations of the Vermont Pesticide and Poison Action Network (VT PAPAN) for altering the present Best Management Practices for the use of neonic-treated seeds and insecticides, so that they will be more aligned with legislative intent and consistent with Act 182. As follows:

1. Allowing aerial spraying of neonics will endanger the very pollinators and birds the law is meant to protect. Pollinator experts from Xerces Society, Cornell, UVM, Penn State University and University of Nebraska, Lincoln recommend NO aerial spraying at all.

RECOMMENDATION: Please remove aerial spraying, including by drone, from BMPs to protect pollinators and birds.

2. Allowing use near water resources with notification protects nothing. Xerces Society et al call for no application at all within specific buffer areas for public and private drinking water resources. Due to the mobility, accumulation and persistence of neonicotinoid pesticides, water resources must be protected.

RECOMMENDATION: Require that the BMPs follow guidance in Xerces et al on observing buffers to water.

3. The Best Management Practices are unenforceable; therefore they must contain stronger, more precautionary language.

RECOMMENDATION: LCAR is our court of last resort to protect pollinators in Vermont. Please send the BMPs back to the AIB to get compliance with the law on protection for pollinators and water resources.

Thank you,
Emily Lanxner
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