

Include periodic educational articles about pollinator health research in the pesticide applicator newsletter distributed by the University of Vermont Extension and the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets to all certified applicators in the Vermont.

[Changes to the State pesticide regulations](#)

Vermont Regulations for the Control of Pesticides should specify: Apply pesticides that are highly toxic to bees when there is less chance for exposure to managed or native pollinators: early morning or late evening.

Vermont Regulations for the Control of Pesticides should specify: Applications of pesticides that are highly toxic to bees shall provide buffers to native pollinators. This should be accomplished by either: A fifty (50) foot buffer from pollinator foraging sites, such as natural and semi-natural areas or intentional pollinator plantings OR A twenty (20) foot width non-pollinator-attractive vegetative barrier higher than the spray release height with an established 60% plant density

Vermont Regulations for the Control of Pesticides should specify: Reduce drift by applying pesticides when winds are less than 9 mph and there is a low risk of inversion.

Vermont Regulations for the Control of Pesticides should specify: Avoid application of fungicides to plants attractive to pollinators when plants are in bloom.

Vermont Regulations for the Control of Pesticides should specify: Avoid the use of soil fumigants.

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets should revise the Regulations for the Control of Pesticides, specifically identifying managed and native pollinators and their habitat as an environmental concern in the regulations and permit language.

Proposed Regulations

5.04 Protection of Bees

(a) No person shall apply a pesticide to a flowering crop, including but not limited to, alfalfa, apple, blueberry, clover, pumpkin, raspberry, squash, or trefoil without prior notification to an apiculturist who has an established apiary on the premises. 15

(b) A person hiring a commercial applicator for an application under section 5.04(a) shall notify, or cause to be notified, the apiculturist prior to the application.

(c) A person applying a pesticide that is highly toxic to bees shall:

(1) apply the pesticide during periods and conditions of least exposure, such as early morning, late evening, and when winds are less than nine mph;

(2) include a 50-foot buffer from pollinator foraging sites, such as natural and semi-natural areas or intentional pollinator plantings or a 20-foot-wide non-pollinator-attractive vegetative barrier higher than the spray release height with an established 60% plant density; and

(3) avoid application of a fungicide to pollinator-attractive plants when in bloom.