

NEONICOTINOID POLLINATOR POLICY

WHEREAS, threats to pollinators harm the entire food system, since pollination provided by honeybees and other essential pollinators account for one in every three bites of food, is responsible for pollination of key crops, including fruits, nuts, berries, melons and many others, contributing over \$20 billion worth of services to U.S. agriculture; and

WHEREAS, pollinators including butterflies, honeybees, bumblebees, native bees and other insect pollinators are under great environmental stress, experiencing die-offs and diminishing populations, and putting major sectors of agriculture and food security at risk due to habitat loss, pesticide use, pathogens, and parasites; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence shows pesticides, especially systemic insecticides, cannot be avoided by pollinators and pesticides have contributed to the decline of pollinators; and

WHEREAS, a large and growing body of independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrate that neonicotinoids, one of the most widely used classes of insecticides, are systemic, persistent neurotoxins that spread throughout a treated plant including to the pollen that is gathered by pollinators; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoids adversely impact beneficial soil invertebrates, avian and aquatic organisms, pollute water resources and soils, and contaminate the pollen and nectar that is gathered by pollinators; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that neonicotinoids are endangering pollinators through acute poisonings as well as chronic sub-lethal exposures, which can weaken immune defenses, causing increased susceptibility to natural stressors such as parasites, pathogens, and studies have shown other adverse effects associated with neonicotinoids, including delays in larval development, decreases in queen survival and negative effects on feeding, navigational and reproductive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, municipal and residential use of neonicotinoids and other systemic pesticides on public parks and other municipal areas pose unacceptable risks to bees, other pollinators and aquatic invertebrates, and;

WHEREAS, responding to scientific studies finding that neonicotinoids pose unacceptable hazards to pollinators, the European Union in 2013 instituted a two-year moratorium on some uses of neonicotinoids, while several U.S. cities and counties, including Portland and Eugene, OR; Spokane and Seattle, WA, Minneapolis MN, and Boulder, CO, have adopted resolutions and/or bans against municipal use of neonicotinoids, while the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has banned the use of neonicotinoids on all 150 million acres of its National Wildlife Refuge System; and

WHEREAS, we find these actions to be in the public interest and demonstrates our commitment to a healthy community environment for people as well as pollinators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF BIRCHWOOD VILLAGE:

Section 1. The City of Birchwood Village including its contractors, will not purchase or use any neonicotinoid pesticides for any purpose, including plants or plant seeds that have been pretreated with neonicotinoids and will seek to use only pollinator-friendly methods of weed and pest control on any City owned or operated land.

Section 2. The City of Birchwood Village shall undertake its best efforts to purchase insecticides and other types of pesticides that are safe for pollinators as well as landscaping materials, including plants and seeds, that have not been treated with neonicotinoids. It also urges all businesses, homeowners and HOAs operating within the City of Birchwood Village to take steps to ensure that no plants, seeds or products containing neonicotinoids are used within the City of Birchwood Village, and to clearly and accurately label any pesticides, plants, landscaping materials, or building supplies that contain neonicotinoids.

Section 3. The City of Birchwood Village shall make its best efforts to purchase agricultural products that are not treated with neonicotinoids, including, when practical, to choose food and cotton products that have been certified as “organic” by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Section 4. The City of Birchwood Village supports a national moratorium on the sale and use of neonicotinoids and hereby urges all related parties, both public and private, at the local, state and federal levels to suspend the use of neonicotinoids in seed treatments, soil applications or foliar treatments on bee-attractive plants in urban and agricultural settings.

Section 5. The City of Birchwood Village will support efforts to educate the broader community about the action it has taken, the importance of creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitat and encourage residents and businesses to use similar pollinator-friendly practices.

This Policy was adopted by RESOLUTION 2019-22 on September 10, 2019.