

ASTA Supports Additional Research on Pollinator Health and Maintaining Access to Important Pesticides

Pollinators, such as bees and other insects, are vital to crop production and general ecosystem health. In recent years there have been concerns about the decline in the overall health of honey bee colonies. Experts agree that bee health is affected by numerous factors and to single out pesticides as the main cause of colony health decline is misguided.

Seed Treatments are an Effective Tool

Seed treatments are an effective tool for combating the negative impacts of diseases, insects, nematodes and other pests at the time of planting and thereafter. They help to safeguard the growing plant while minimizing impact to humans, animals and the environment. The neonicotinoids frequently used in seed treatments have very low toxicity to humans and other non-target animals, but are still insecticides.

The seed industry is committed to partnering with the USDA to increase research on honeybee diseases, pests and forages. In addition, the seed and pesticide industries are working collaboratively to raise awareness amongst farmers and seed treatment applicators on ways to minimize the risk of seed dust exposure to pollinators and other non-target organisms during planting and disposal of treated seeds through our Guide to Seed Treatment Stewardship. To learn more, visit <http://seed-treatment-guide.com/>

