



PesticideSmart News: Governor Hogan Signs Pollinator Habitat Bill Into Law Plus More News & Tips

June 2017 Newsletter

Greetings!

We have **GOOD NEWS!** 🐝🐝🐝

On May 25th, Governor Hogan officially signed a nationally ground-breaking MD Pollinator Habitat bill ensuring that pollinator habitats planted on designated state land (established by a 2016 Maryland law) will be free of pollinator-harming pesticides. We are deeply grateful to our champion legislators - bill sponsors Del. Healey (HB830) & Sen. Nathan-Pulliam (SB386), Committee Chairs Del. Barve & Sen. Carter-Conway and Committee Vice Chairs Sen. Pinsky and Del. Stein.



Photo courtesy of the Executive Office of the Governor

This is the first law in the country to restrict the use of pollinator-harming pesticides on government land. The law does not allow for the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and any pesticides labeled 'toxic to bees,' or any neonicotinoid-treated plants and seeds, to be used in designated pollinator habitats on state land, which are overseen by three state agencies. Thanks to all of you that urged your legislators to support the bill and urged the Governor to sign the bill into law!

This month's newsletter provides mosquito season tips and breaking news regarding the efficacy of pesticides used for Zika-carrying mosquitoes, concerning and encouraging news items, great tips on getting rid of ants while supporting the good insects, and much more.

We have more work to do reducing the impact of pesticides on our Babies, Bees & the Bay! Please help us continue our work by making a donation today!

[DONATE](#)

Take Action - Go Organic!



Your "organic" milk might not be organic at all, thanks to weaknesses in the inspection system. [Read more.](#)

An internal USDA memo shows that **there's substantial funding available to support organic farmers, but many are unaware that it exists.** [Read more.](#)



Green America lists **more than 150 sources of organic cotton clothing, fabrics, towels, bedding, and more.** [Read more.](#)

We are deeply grateful for Common Market Co+Op's [10-day Save the Bees Fundraiser,](#) which highlighted protecting pollinators, distributed fact sheets to help shoppers keep their yards healthier and safer for "Babies, Bees and the Bay" and supported SOPC's work with \$4,200 in donations from shoppers.

They also raised \$1,440 from sales of a beautiful handcrafted lavender pendant by local jewelry designer Stacey Krantz of



InBloom Jewelry, which is [still available for sale](#) (see details below). The Common Market, located in Frederick, Maryland, sells local certified organic produce and much, much more. They also offer classes on a wide range of subjects for healthy living and eating. Visit www.commonmarket.coop.

Mosquito Season News & Tips



The mosquitoes that transmit the Zika virus defy much of what is known about mosquitoes, which means that **controlling them may be a "lost cause."** [Read more.](#)

Biochemist Linda Silversmith notes that **"taking just a small dose of vitamin B1** (thiamine) before you go out changes the 'flavor' of your skin and **works to repel mosquitoes."**



For standing water you can't drain, use Mosquito Dunks or Mosquito Bits with BTI, a least toxic biological control. BTI is a bacteria toxic only to mosquito larvae, that lasts 30 days and treats 100 square feet of surface water. Simply apply Mosquito Dunks® or Mosquito Bits to any standing water, or water garden. They are available at local hardware and home and garden stores and are an effective least-toxic biological control.

Bee Buzz

BEWARE: When purchasing plants that are pollinator friendly – including milkweed plants that are beneficial for birds and butterflies – make sure they have not been treated with neonicotinoid pesticides. While Home Depot does label the neonic-treated plants they still sell, these labels are not always clearly visible. **Want to make sure you are purchasing pollinator-friendly plants?** [This chart](#) provides information on nurseries that sell neonic-free seeds, seedlings and plants.





Wal-Mart and True Value will be phasing out bee-killing neonicotinoids (Ace Hardware, however, lags behind). [Read more.](#)

Thiamethoxam, a neonicotinoid, has been found to reduce egg development in queen bees, which could dangerously impact bee populations. [Read more.](#)

Want to help us protect our Bees, Birds and other Pollinators? 50% of every sale of this lavender pendant necklace will be donated directly to Common Market's "Save The Bees" fundraiser for Maryland Pesticide Education Network's Smart on Pesticides Campaign. [Click here.](#)



Pesticide News



A new study finds **correlations between glyphosate (Roundup) exposure and significant pregnancy issues.** [Read more.](#)

Another study finds **connections between glyphosate and Monarch butterfly deaths.** [Read more.](#)

Neonicotinoids were a key factor in the recent reduction in numbers of farmland birds. [Read more.](#)

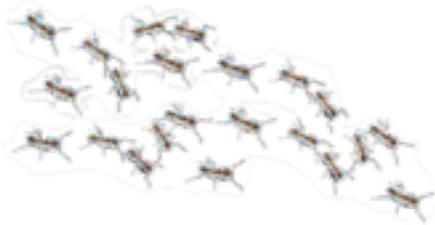
Neonics can also persist in water for a very long time, potentially threatening the food chain for wildlife. [Read more.](#)



EPA chief **Scott Pruitt has denied a ban on chlorpyrifos**, a pesticide **strongly linked to developmental problems in children.** [Read more.](#)

Tips For Healthy Living

This UMMC/Maryland Pesticide Education Network New Moms brochure, [which you can find here](#), offers several helpful tips for **protecting your baby from pesticides**, as well as resources for purchasing pesticide-free baby care, cleaning, and pest-management products.



Rid your house of ants without chemicals. Read more.

10 insects you actually want around your plants. Read more.

Please help us continue to protect our Babies, Bees and the Bay.

[DONATE](#)

[YOUR AMAZON SMILE PURCHASES ALSO SUPPORT OUR WORK](#)

We appreciate your feedback on our monthly newsletter: info@mdpestnet.org