



PesticideSmart News - Pesticide-Related Bills Currently Before the MD Legislature & More

March 2017 Newsletter

Greetings!

This month's newsletter notes some of the early negative impacts to pollinators and environmental protections, under the new EPA Secretary and resulting from executive orders. Thankfully, we can take significant actions on the state level, as noted below.

On the personal level, this edition helps you identify medicinal plants in your back yard and community, as well as ways to increase healthier air in your home.

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

Take Action!

The Maryland 2017 General Assembly



With your help, we are working to pass another important pollinator protection bill this session. SB 386/HB 830 is a bill that has already passed the Maryland Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee and has been debated this week on the Senate floor. **THE FLOOR VOTE IS LIKELY TOMORROW--FRIDAY, MARCH 3rd.**

It is a very simple bill. In 2016, a law was passed requiring three state agencies to establish pollinator habitat areas on state lands. We need to provide more pollinator-friendly habitat to support our hard working bees and their "colleagues" in the field. This well-intentioned law, however, did not clarify that pesticides known to be toxic to pollinators (neonicotinoid pesticides and other pesticides labeled toxic to bees) should not be used. SB 386/HB 1064 addresses this needed small fix to ensure that state agency-planted pollinator habitat is indeed pollinator-friendly -- and not pollinator-killing. **Please help us protect our bees!**

TAKE ACTION! THE SENATE IS LIKELY TO VOTE ON SB 386 AS SOON AS TOMORROW, 11 AM. So if you haven't already ... please email your senator today and let him/her know you support healthy habitat and urge them to support SB 386. We have made it really easy and quick – [just click here](#).

And stay tuned for an upcoming action alert regarding the House version of this bill.

The Smart on Pesticides Campaign has also provided testimony in support of:

HB 1204 - Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Atrazine Study - requires the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), in consultation with the Maryland Departments of the Environment and Agriculture, to study and make recommendations about the impact of atrazine on public health, the environment, and agriculture. DHMH must report study results to the Governor and specified committees of the General Assembly by October 1, 2018, and publish the report on the department's website. Atrazine is a widely used herbicide that has been found at levels in our drinking water that surpass 'safe' levels according to the US EPA.



HB 1263 - Agriculture – Maryland Healthy Soils Program – establishes a healthy soils program to promote widespread use of healthy soils practices among farmers in the state, in order to sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We will keep you posted on progress this session!

Please support our work on protecting our Babies, Bees & the Bay:

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Bee Buzz

Trump's new executive order, which freezes federal regulations that have yet to be implemented, **could very well lead to the bumblebee's extinction.** [Read more.](#)





According to public health experts, despite widespread use, **there is almost no research on the human health impacts of bee-killing pesticides.** [Read more.](#)

The first-ever study to map U.S. wild bee populations suggests that **they are disappearing from key farmland areas, which could endanger crop production.** [Read more.](#)



Pesticide News



As Trump's EPA takes shape, **CivilEats blog offers an excellent "Pesticide Cheat Sheet."** [Read more.](#)

Trump may allow a harmful, Nazi-developed pesticide to stay on the market. [Read more.](#)

Researchers find **pesticides spills & accidents alter farmworker's DNA.** [Read more.](#)

Midwest farmer publication documents the **losing 60-year war against pesticide-resistant weeds.** [Read more.](#)



Former Obama USDA appointee says **"Dark Forces" are coming for your organic food.** [Read more.](#)

Tips for Healthy Living



Seven common backyard weeds that are actually medicinal herbs in disguise. [Read more.](#)

How to choose the best compost bin for your home. [Read more.](#)



Seven steps you should take to detoxify the air in your house. [Read more.](#)

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

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