



Pollinators and Pesticides

The story of Seattle's
moratorium on
neonicotinoid
insecticides

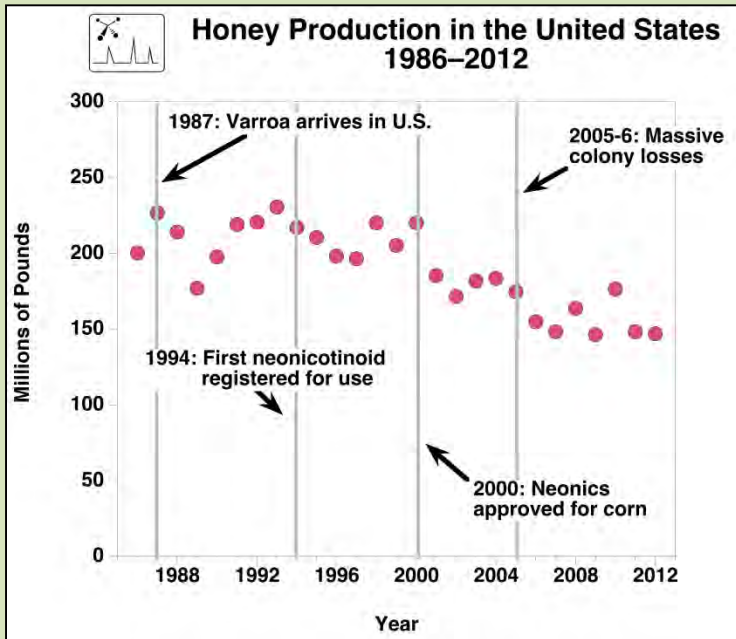
Barbara DeCaro
Green Gardening
Workshop
October 22, 2014

June 15, 2013:

Pesticide Causes Largest Mass Bumble Bee Death on Record

Oregon Department of Agriculture confirms deaths due to application of insecticide





Thursday, October 9, 2014 | TRAFFIC | 61°F

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Originally published Friday, July 4, 2014 at 7:44 PM

Spokane bans chemical that may kill bees

The City Council voted to ban the city's purchase and use of neonicotinoids. The ban covers about 30 percent of the land in Spokane and doesn't apply to private use.





Should We Nix Neonics?

Is it important to stop using neonicotinoids?

Indiscriminate neonicotinoid insecticide use is damaging to bees, wasps, hornets and other insects

There are high stakes impacts if we lose more of these important pollinators, especially bumblebees

We need to all do our part to create awareness pollinators and the important role they play



How did we do it?

We looked at our IPM practices and neonic product use

We asked ourselves what the possible effects could be

We looked at alternative products and strategies for controlling the pest

What we found

Neonics last an unknown period of time in pollen and nectar

More research needs to be done

The best and most conservative solution is to stop neonic use

“The precautionary principle or precautionary approach states that if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or to the environment, in the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is not harmful, the burden of proof that it is not harmful falls on those taking an action.”

We examined the issues through the City's joint interdepartmental IPM team

We know that regional bumblebees are threatened species

We created a joint mayoral/council resolution that created a moratorium on the use of neonicotinoids in public lands and facilities in Seattle

Resolution 31548 – key points

- The City will not purchase or use any neonicotinoid pesticides for any purpose
- The City will only use pollinator-friendly methods of weed and pest control on any city-owned or operated land
- The City will support a national moratorium on the sale and use of neonicotinoids

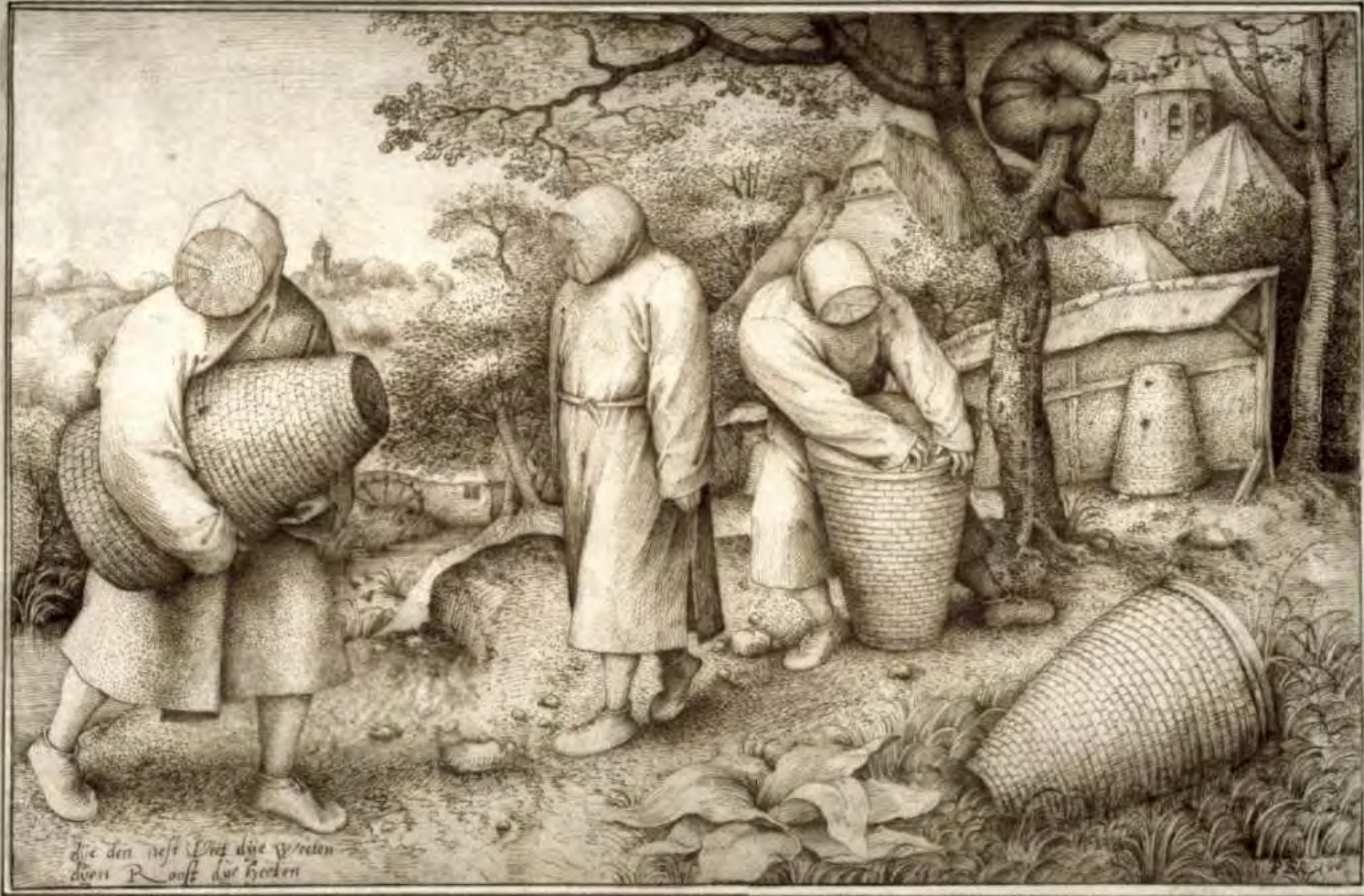
Resolution 31548

- The City strongly urges the U.S. House of Representatives to pass the Save America's Pollinators Act (H.R. 2692) and to suspend neonics registration until the EPA can complete its environmental assessments.



What about the beekeepers?





Wie den nest niet die vreten
doen Roof die heeren



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Beekeepers use the safest insecticide products and they want us to do that too!

They don't want us to go back to organophosphates and other heavy hitter insecticides

What are the outcomes?

Good IPM practices across our region and beyond

More pollinator habitat and robust pollinator populations

People pulling together to save bees and other pollinators

Earth Wins!



POLLINATOR PATHWAY®





Come to the Pollinator Pathway's

SPRING WORK PARTY!

MAY 4 and 5, 2013

21st and E. COLUMBIA

12-4 P.M.

JOIN US IN HELPING BUILD THE 20TH GARDEN ON THE POLLINATOR PATHWAY. (WE'RE ONE GARDEN AWAY FROM BEING 1/3 DONE!)

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. SNACKS AND WATER PROVIDED, AND MANY TOOLS. PLEASE BRING GLOVES, A DRINKING CONTAINER, AND EXTRA TOOLS IF YOU HAVE THEM.

Need to reach us? Send an email to: volunteer@pollinatorpathway.com
More info: pollinatorpathway.com



www.pollinatorpathway.com

Sara Bergmann





Resources

(link to resolution)

Xerces Society

<http://www.xerces.org/action-alert-pollinators-and-pesticides/>

<http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-resource-center/>

<http://www.xerces.org/2014/05/01/the-xerces-society-other-conservation-leaders-participate-in-white-house-pollinator-initiative-stakeholder-meeting/>

Washington State University Extension Info

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS122E/FS122E.pdf>

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