

# Seed Treatment Update: Canada

SAA Seed Applied Technologies

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# Seed Treatment Update: Canada

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# About CSTA

## CSTA Mission

To Foster Seed Industry Innovation and Trade

- 130 member companies
- Engaged in all aspects of seed and seed technology in or on the seed
  - Research, plant breeding, trait development
  - Production
  - Processing
  - Marketing
  - Trade
- 50 crop kinds
  - Garden seed to grain, oilseeds, forages and turf
  - Organics to products of biotechnology
- Single grower/retailers to multi-nationals



# Neonicotinoid Treated Seed Use in Canada



## Corn:

- 3.1 million acres planted
- 95+% of the acres are planted with neonicotinoid treated seed



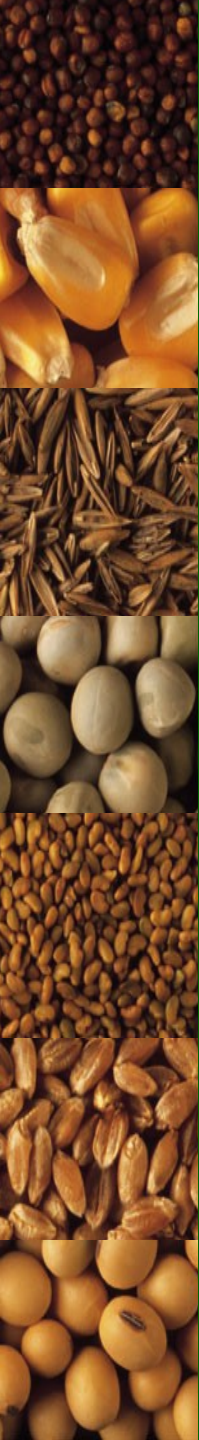
## Soybeans:

- 5.5 million acres planted
- 60% of the acres are planted with neonicotinoid treated seed



## Canola:

- 19.9 million acres planted
- 99% of the acres are planted with neonicotinoid treated seed

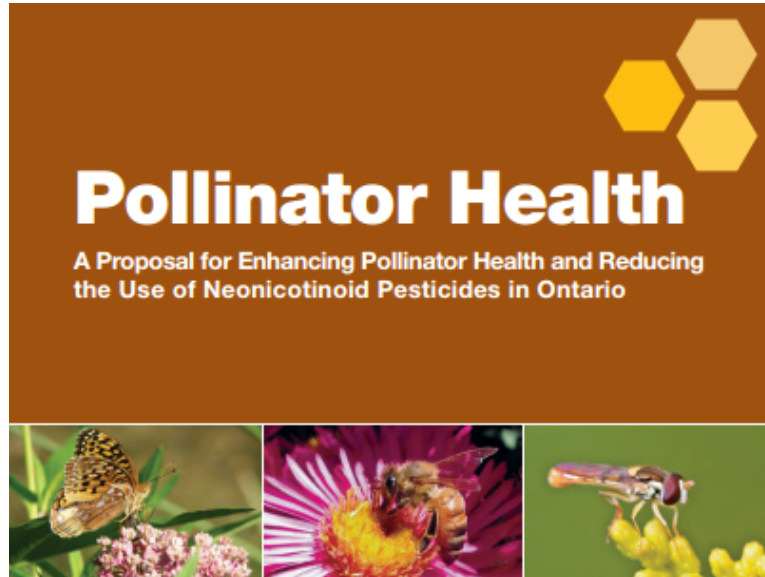


## The Situation in Ontario

### Federal Versus Provincial

- Canada is divided into 10 provinces and 3 territories
- Agriculture and environment is a shared jurisdiction between the federal and provincial governments
- The Federal government, through PMRA, has the jurisdiction to evaluate, approve, register and review pesticides and crop protection products
- Once registered a product can be used in across Canada
- Provinces have the jurisdiction to further regulate how and when federally registered crop protection products are used

# The Situation in Ontario



**November 24, 2014 –**  
Province of Ontario  
Announces  
“Aspirational Goals”:

- Reduce overwintering bee mortality to 15% by 2020
- Reduce acres planted with neonic treated **corn and soybeans** by 80% by 2017





## Reducing the Use of Neonicotinoid Insecticides: Amendments to Ontario Regulation 63/09 under the Pesticides Act

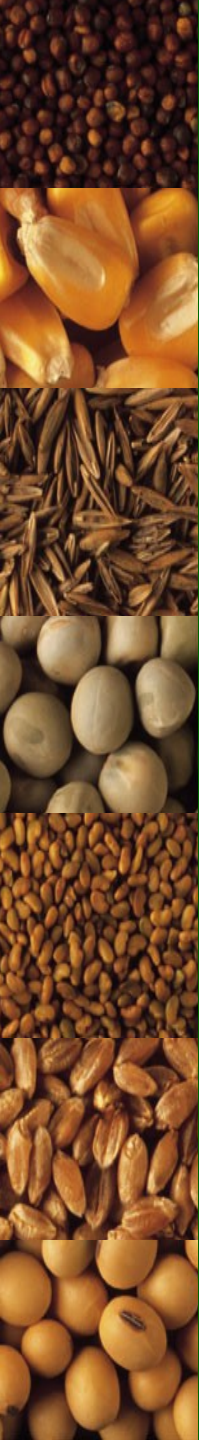
On **March 23, 2015** proposed regulations were released for a 45 day comment period by Ontario

23,145 comments were received



On Tuesday **June 9, 2015** the Ontario government announced that the regulatory amendments had been approved and would be in force by **July 1, 2015**

The regulations are not science based and run contrary to the actions being taken by the value chain, PMRA and Senate Reports as well as the White House Pollinator Action Plan.



## The Situation in Ontario

Neonic treated corn and soybean seed is now considered a pesticide:

- New Class 12 Pesticide created
- Applies to imidacloprid, thiamethoxam and clothianidin
- Does not apply to sweet or popping corn or corn and soybean for seed production

New rules for farmers:

- Require training on IPM practices
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party pest assessments completed to purchase treated seed

Regulations will be phased in beginning in 2015

# The Situation in Ontario

- Seed Companies must apply for a Vendor License to sell treated seed
- Seed Companies must submit to the Ministry of Environment:
  - Sales information (neonic treated and untreated)
  - Full list of all treated and untreated hybrids available for purchase
  - Pest Assessment Reports that were submitted to purchase treated seed
- Limits and rules for advertising Class 12 pesticides (neonic treated)

# Where are we now?

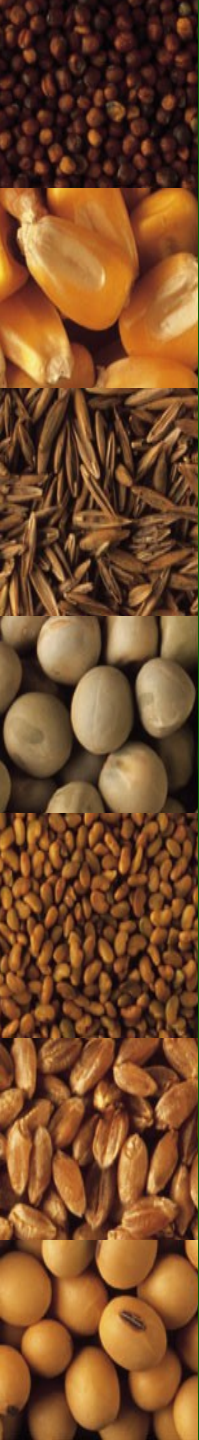
- Regulations in Ontario are in place and seed companies are complying
- CSTA and the value chain continue to engage with federal and provincial governments
- Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO) have filed a court challenge against the government of Ontario, requesting a 'stay' of the regulation
- Case will be heard by the Ontario Superior Court in Toronto on September 28, 2015

# CSTA, Industry and Farmer Action

CSTA helped facilitate the creation of a value chain coalition in 2012/13:

- Grower groups
- Technology developers
- Applicators
- Seed Trade
- Equipment manufacturers
- Retailers





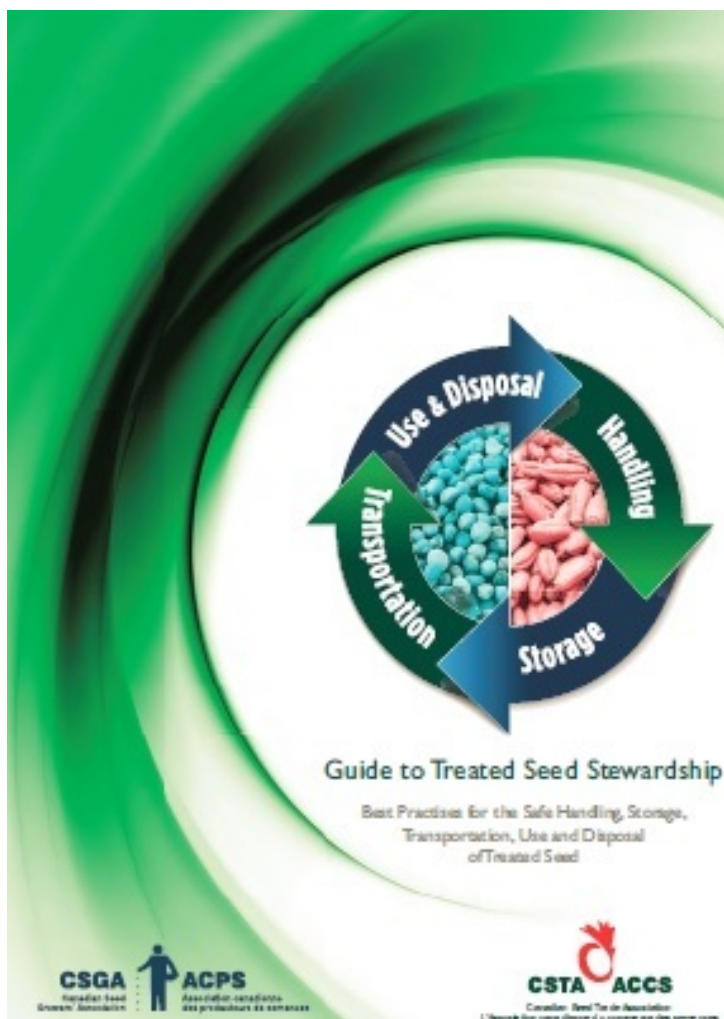
## CSTA, Industry and Farmer Action

Coalition made 5 key commitments to federal and provincial policy makers in August 2013:

1. Development and promotion of Best Management Practises for planting treated seed
2. Additional labelling
3. Improved technology for dust mitigation
4. Lifecycle stewardship of seed treatments and treated seed
5. Choice for farmers

Sent follow up letter detailing progress in March 2015

# CSTA, Industry and Farmer Action



CSTA and the Canadian Seed Growers' Association partnered to create the '*Guide to Treated Seed Stewardship: Best Practises for the Safe Handling, Storage, Transportation, Use, and Disposal of Treated Seed.*'

# CSTA, Industry and Farmer Action

## National Bee Health Roundtable

- Formally established in October 2014
- CSTA is a founding member
- Chaired by AAFC and Canadian Honey Council
- Membership:
  - Farmer organizations from all crop kinds and horticulture
  - Apiculturists
  - CSTA
  - CropLife Canada
  - Equipment Manufacturers
  - Provincial and Federal Governments
  - Academia

**Focus on:    Reduction of Pesticide Exposure  
                  BMPs for Beekeepers  
                  Minor Use Program for bees**

# bees matter

- Public outreach – free wildflower seeds
- Bee learning centre

bees  matter

SELECT A SECTION 

 Français   

## HONEY BEE LEARNING CENTRE



### Making the Most of Your Buzzing Garden

Whether you're a first-timer or an experienced gardener, making sure your Buzzing Garden thrives is easy and fun.



### Growing and Maintaining a Honey Bee Garden

Feeding honey bees means giving them more of what they need and offering it close to where they live. Though wild habitats are essential to healthy honey

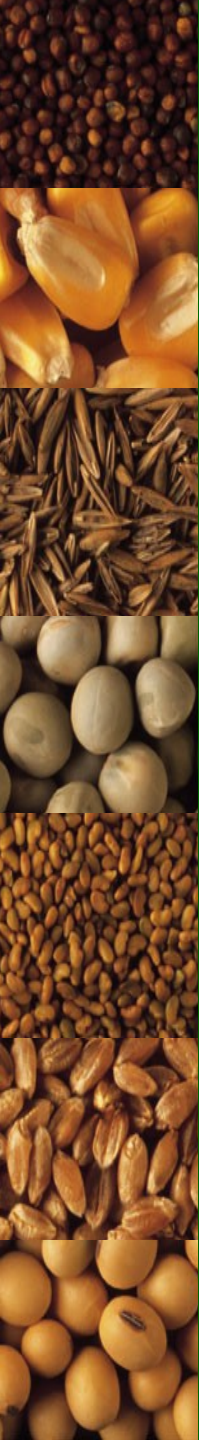


### The History of the Honey Bee in Canada

Surprisingly, the honey bee isn't actually native to Canada—or even North America. Still, since being introduced by European settlers in the 17th century, the number of hives in the country continues to



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## PMRA Re-Evaluation of Neonicotinoids

- Includes Thiamethoxam, clothianidin and imidacloprid
- Began in 2012 and in 2013 PMRA updated re-evaluation to focus on risks to pollinators and value of the product
- Generated over 16,000 responses across Canada
- Concluded: **“Current agricultural practices related to the use of neonicotinoid treated corn and soybean seed are not sustainable”.**
- **PMRA Mandated for 2014 planting:**
  - the use of safer dust-reducing seed flow lubricants
  - adherence to safer seed planting practices
  - new pesticide and seed package labels with enhanced warnings
  - updated value information be provided to support the continued need for neonicotinoid treatment



# PMRA Re-Evaluation of Neonicotinoids

2015 PMRA issued an updated assessment on neonic use and pollinator health:

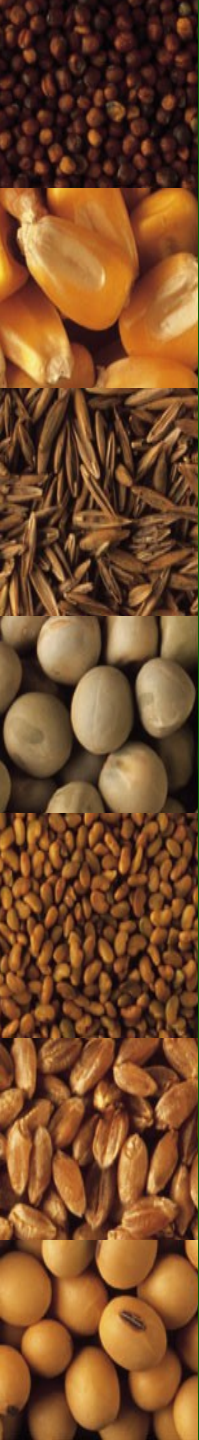
- Not sufficient evidence to draw conclusions regarding a link between bee colony effects and potential neonicotinoid exposure
  - Bee death incidents during planting in Canada were down 70% in 2014 from 2013 and in 2015 the reduction was 80% compared to 2013
  - Bee death incidents during planting in Ontario were down 79% from 70% in 2014 from 2013
  - 72% of the post planting colony effects were reported by only 3 beekeepers in Ontario
- 
- Expect re-evaluation to be completed by 2017

# What Have We Learned?

- Science Based Regulation is under threat
- Environmental lobby is strong and have great influence – do not underestimate their political power.
- Misinformation about state of regulation and situations in other countries is a problem
  - Ontario used EU moratorium as justification for action

# What Have We Learned?

- Engage in proactive communication with pollinator groups
- Sit at the same table and talk about industry practices
- Listen to their concerns, agree on strategy and solutions
- Get ahead of the misinformation.



## For More Information :

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