

**WISCONSIN
NEONICOTINOID
WORKGROUP**



Quarterly Newsletter

June 2025

Workgroup Spotlight

Neonicotinoids, often called *neonics*, are a widely used class of insecticide in modern agriculture. Chemically similar to nicotine, neonics have become the most prevalent pesticide globally due to their effectiveness in controlling a variety of pests. Neonics were initially celebrated for their broad-spectrum activity, systemic properties, and perceived low toxicity to mammals. However, the extensive and persistent use of neonics has raised concerns regarding their impacts on water quality, ecosystems, and human health.

The Wisconsin Neonicotinoid Workgroup seeks to raise awareness and close knowledge gaps by promoting collaboration among researchers, conservationists, agricultural professionals, and the general public to enhance informed decision-making.

Want to get involved? Learn more at <https://www.cleanwisconsin.org/neonics/>

New Stories in Research and Best Use

Neonicotinoids in Groundwater: Persistent Contaminants and Unresolved Risk

Carla Romano, 2025

Excerpt: “However, nearly 40 years after their (neonicotinoids) introduction, they have emerged as new contaminants in groundwater, raising concerns about their environmental and human health impacts, which remain poorly understood.”

A Review of the Adverse Effects of Neonicotinoids on the Environment

Mota, Z.L., et al. 2024

Abstract excerpt: “This review presents current knowledge on neonicotinoids, their mechanisms of action, and their transport in ecological spheres. Their presence in water and soil is evidenced, with specific concentrations reported in various regions.”

New Outreach Materials

Recent Neonicotinoid Related Outreach Materials from Clean Wisconsin:

“Neonicotinoids in Wisconsin” Fact Sheet

This fact sheet highlights the key facts around the use and current issues surrounding the use of neonicotinoids in Wisconsin.

2024 Wisconsin Neonic Whitepaper

The first Wisconsin Neonic Forum was held in October 2024 and showcased several excellent talks and discussions around the use and impacts of neonics in the environment. This whitepaper highlights the key findings and talking points from the forum.

Find both of these materials on google drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m9nF9mPf4ggOx2AVb_JYBmlD8-z4FXz8?usp=sharing

All Things Pollinators

Upcoming Event: Pollinator Patrol

Friday June 20, 1:00-2:30pm in Appleton, WI

This event, hosted by the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust, will be held at Riverview Gardens. Learn about the interactions between pollinators, plants, and seasonal changes. **Registration Required.** For more information visit: <https://newlt.org/events/pollinator-patrol/>

Upcoming Event: Co-Establishing Community and Pollinators

Friday July 25, 1:00-4:00 pm in Clinton, WI

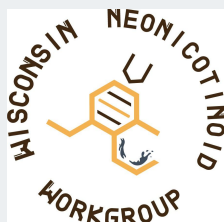
Friday August 22, 1:00-4:00 pm in Barnaveld, WI

The WI Women in Conservation (WiWiC) are hosting 2 field days in Southern WI discussing native plant variety selection and creating wildlife sanctuary. For more information visit: <https://www.wiwic.org/upcoming-events>

Additional Pollinator Resources:

WI DNR pollinator website

UW Extension pollinator website



Updates, photos, or stories you want to add to the newsletter? Please reach out to AJ Jeninga at anya.jeninga@wisc.edu

Video Resources



Neonicotinoid Insecticides: Widespread Use and Emerging impacts on Agricultural Landscapes

Watch and learn about neonicotinoid insecticide use and impacts in agriculture, presented by Drs. Russ Groves and Shawn Conley. This recorded webinar is from the 2025 UW-Madison Division of Extension Agriculture Water Quality Webinar Series.



Recordings from the 2024 Wisconsin Neonic Forum

Missed the 2024 Wisconsin Neonic Forum? No problem! Learn about the speakers and watch their recorded talks.



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