

Dear Manager,

As a responsible retailer, I'm sure you take note of constructive feedback from your customers, particularly about any potentially detrimental health effects of the products on your shelves.

I would like to draw your attention to the range of garden pesticides you sell, which may include some that have ingredients now considered by many scientists and the European Parliament to have dangerously toxic effects on bees.

You may be aware that for several years there have been calls from beekeeping organizations, conservation bodies and scientists for a ban on the class of insecticides known as neonicotinoids, which are proven to kill bees in extremely low doses - as little as five parts per billion in one French study - and which can cause permanent nerve damage in bees and other beneficial insects in even lower doses.

Just to put this in context - five parts per billion is equivalent to one teaspoonful in one thousand metric tonnes of water.

Among others, Buglife and Friends of the Earth have called for a precautionary ban on this class of insecticides on all flowering crops and in gardens.

The European Parliament Directorate General for Internal Policies has recently issued a paper ¹ entitled '*Existing Scientific Evidence of the Effects of Neonicotinoid Pesticides on Bees*' which you can download and read if you wish. The executive summary includes the following (I have put the most important points in bold):

KEY FINDINGS

- Although bee declines can be attributed to multifarious causes, **the use of neonicotinoids is increasingly held responsible for recent honeybee losses.**
- **Neonicotinoids show high acute toxicity to honeybees.**
- **Chronic exposure of honeybees to sub-lethal doses of neonicotinoids can also result in serious effects, which include a wide range of behavioural disturbances in bees, such as problems with flying and navigation, impaired memory and learning, reduced foraging ability, as well as reduction in breeding success and disease resistance.**
- **Recent scientific findings are urging to reassess the bee safety of approved uses of neonicotinoid insecticides at European level.**

More recently, investigations by EFSA have confirmed unacceptable risk to honey bees and a deficiency of data for wild pollinators, for the three neonicotinoids they have examined in detail, including the regulatory evidence submitted by the manufacturers to support their registrations.

In the light of the many reports and scientific papers demonstrating both acute and chronic effects of neonicotinoids on bees, other beneficial insects, soil bacteria, ground-dwelling creatures, birds and other wildlife, I ask you to join the other environmentally responsible retailers who have already begun to remove these chemicals from their shelves.

Such retailers so far include: B&Q, Homebase, Wickes as well as Notcutts, Hillier, Squires and Blue Diamond, which between them operate 60 garden centres.

May I ask you, therefore, to check your product list for any of the products listed over, which all contain neonicotinoids, and remove them from sale, to demonstrate your support for bees and other wildlife, which - directly and indirectly - provide us with much of the food we eat.

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/studiesdownload.html?file=79433&languageDocument=EN>

UK Home and garden products that contain neonicotinoid pesticides

Product Name	Manufacturer	Active Ingredient
Bug Free Extra	Bayer CropScience Ltd	Imidacloprid
Provado Lawn Grub Killer	Bayer CropScience Ltd	Imidacloprid
Provado Ultimate Bug Killer	Bayer CropScience Ltd	Imidacloprid
Provado Ultimate Bug Killer Concentrate	Bayer CropScience Ltd	Imidacloprid
Provado Vine Weevil Killer	Bayer CropScience Ltd	Imidacloprid
Valiant	Sherriff Amenity	Imidacloprid
Bug Attack Granules	Westland Horticulture Limited	Thiamethoxam
Bug Attack Quick Sticks	Westland Horticulture Limited	Thiamethoxam
Bug Attack Ready to Use	Westland Horticulture Limited	Abamectin and thiamethoxam
Westland Plant Rescue Bug Killer Concentrate Ornamentals Plants	Westland Horticulture Limited	Thiamethoxam
Westland Plant Rescue Bug Killer Ornamentals Plants	Westland Horticulture Limited	Abamectin and thiamethoxam
Baby Bio House Plant Insecticide	Bayer CropScience Ltd	Thiacloprid
Multirose Bug Killer	Bayer CropScience Ltd	Thiacloprid
Provado Ultimate Bug Killer 2	Bayer CropScience Ltd	Methiocarb and Thiacloprid
Provado Ultimate Bug Killer Concentrate 2	Bayer CropScience Ltd	Thiacloprid
Provado Ultimate Bug Killer Ready to Use	Bayer CropScience Ltd	Thiacloprid
Provado Vine Weevil Killer 2	Bayer CropScience Ltd	Thiacloprid
Bugclear Ultra	The Scotts Company (UK) Limited	Acetamiprid
BugClear Ultra	The Scotts Company (UK) Limited	Acetamiprid
BugClear Ultra for Pots	The Scotts Company (UK) Limited	Acetamiprid
BugClear Ultra for Pots Ready to Use	The Scotts Company (UK) Limited	Acetamiprid
BugClear Ultra Gun!	The Scotts Company (UK) Limited	Acetamiprid
Bugclear Ultra Vine Weevil Killer	The Scotts Company (UK) Limited	Acetamiprid
Bugclear Ultra Vine Weevil Killer	The Scotts Company (UK) Limited	Acetamiprid
RoseClear for Bugs	The Scotts Company (UK) Limited	Acetamiprid
Roseclear Ultra	The Scotts Company (UK) Limited	Acetamiprid
Roseclear Ultra GUN!	The Scotts Company (UK) Limited	Acetamiprid

Name:

Address:

Signature: