



PESTICIDE ADVISORY

Permanent Rule Prohibiting the Use of Dinotefuran, Imidacloprid, Thiamethoxam, and Clothianidin on Linden Trees



The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has enacted a permanent rule prohibiting the use of any product containing the neonicotinoid insecticides dinotefuran, clothianidin, imidacloprid, or thiamethoxam, regardless of application method, on linden trees, basswood trees or other *Tilia* species. The permanent rule (OAR 603-057-0388) went into effect on February 27, 2015.

What Does this Mean to You?

This rule supersedes product label language. This means that, even if a pesticide user has a pesticide label which provides directions for use on linden trees, ornamental trees (or a similar site), the product **can not** be used on linden trees, basswood trees or other *Tilia* species in the State of Oregon. Application methods prohibited include, but are not limited to: foliar, soil drench, tree or soil injection, and basal bark applications.

Why did ODA Take this Action?

ODA documented several bumble bee kills related to applications of dinotefuran or imidacloprid on linden trees (*Tilia* spp.) in 2013 and 2014. The pesticide applications were made using a variety of methods, including foliar applications, tree injection, soil drench or basal bark treatments. Two of the applications were made during bloom.

Because of the ODA's outreach efforts regarding the hazards to pollinators when using dinotefuran or imidacloprid products on *Tilia* spp., and an ODA temporary emergency rule in 2014 prohibiting these uses, pesticide applicators began using thiamethoxam or clothianidin products as replacements. Unfortunately, these insecticides are chemically related to dinotefuran and imidacloprid (all are nitroguanidine neonicotinoids), and can be equally or possibly more hazardous to bumble bees. Therefore, to prevent the strong likelihood of additional bumblebee deaths, ODA has prohibited the application of all four pesticides on *Tilia* spp.

Why Linden Trees?

The flowers of *Tilia* species are highly attractive to bees and other pollinators. It is possible that there is a heightened effect from pesticide exposure because of a naturally occurring sugar (mannose) in linden flower nectar.

Compliance Requirements

Failure to comply with this Administrative Rule may result in a number of enforcement actions, including, but not limited to: license suspension or revocation, or imposition of a civil penalty.

Information regarding the rule and trade names of pesticide products impacted by this rule may be found at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Pesticides/RegulatoryIssues/Pages/PollinatorIssues.aspx>.

For additional information or questions, contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture at (503) 986-4635, or email pestx@oda.state.or.us