

THE PROBLEM *with* PESTICIDES

Pesticides are everywhere: in our parks and gardens, on cut flowers, in food and drinks, on furniture, in pet treatments, on farmland and railway tracks.

Pesticides are designed to kill or damage living organisms – they are not designed to kill specific insects, they kill all insects.

The pesticide industry is a multi-million pound business that invests huge amounts of capital into continually improving the efficiency of their products – poisons – which are also affecting birds and wildlife.

Pesticides also damage human health

What many people do not know is that pesticides attack the nervous system in humans the same way they attack the nervous system in insects. Exposure in humans is linked to cancer, Parkinson's disease, infertility and many other diseases.

In response to the mounting evidence regarding the harmfulness of pesticides, Paris declared itself pesticide-free ten years ago – today Paris bees provide more honey than their rural cousins.

At present, British government policy is not to ban an ingredient or chemical until it has been proven harmful to health. Even then, action is not guaranteed. In addition, most testing is not conducted independently, but by the pesticide manufacturers themselves.

Deadly NEONICOTINOIDS

Governments and leading experts around the world recognise that a group of particularly powerful pesticides – neonicotinoids (neonics) are at the heart of why the bees are disappearing.

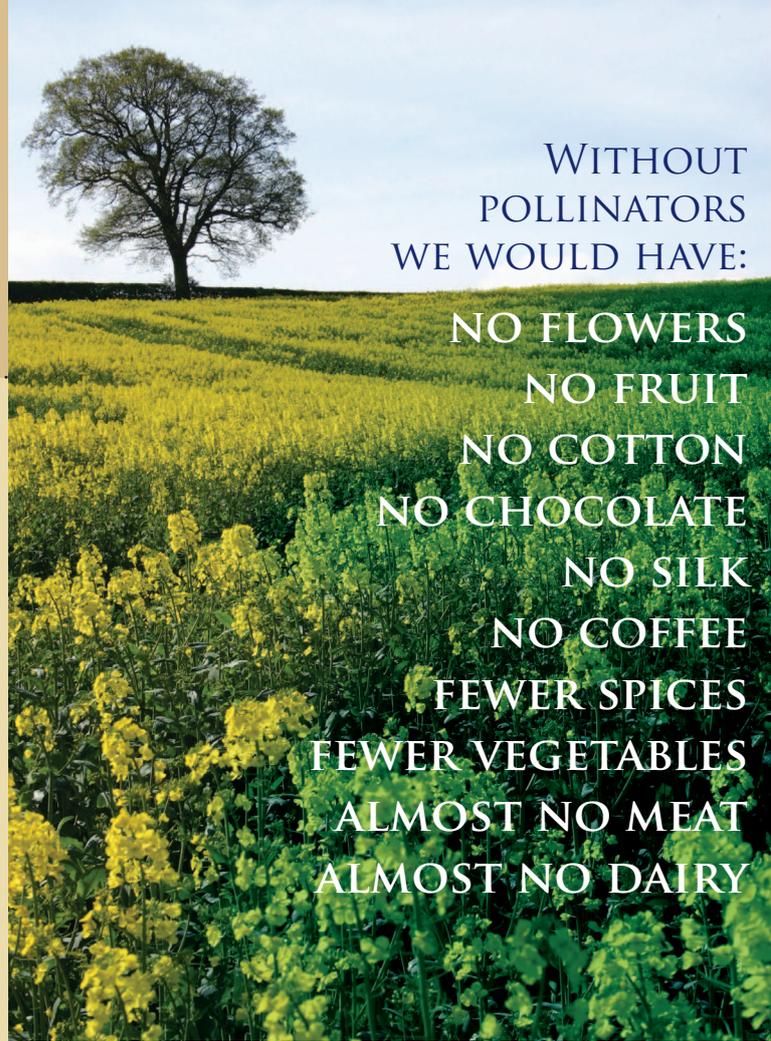
Neonicotinoids are 7,000 times more toxic than DDT, which was banned in Britain in 1984

Using new technology, neonics penetrate the plant and attack the nervous system of insects that feed of them – posing a deadly threat to all pollinators.

The French banned neonics in 2000 after determining, through extensive studies, that even with small doses these pesticides disoriented bees and impaired their foraging ability.

Italy, Germany and Slovenia followed suit banning sales of two varieties of neonics manufactured by Bayer.

A leaked memo from the US Environmental Protection Agency warned that bees and other pollinators are at risk from neonics, which end up in the pollen and nectar of flowers, wash into streams, ponds and rivers destroying aquatic life, and stay in the soil for many years.



WITHOUT
POLLINATORS
WE WOULD HAVE:

NO FLOWERS
NO FRUIT
NO COTTON
NO CHOCOLATE
NO SILK
NO COFFEE
FEWER SPICES
FEWER VEGETABLES
ALMOST NO MEAT
ALMOST NO DAIRY

AS A RESULT OF MOUNTING
EVIDENCE AS TO THE
HARMFULNESS OF PESTICIDES,
PARIS AND TOKYO HAVE DECLARED
THEMSELVES PESTICIDE FREE.
THEIR URBAN BEE POPULATIONS
ARE NOW THRIVING

