

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary - Public

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## Canada

**Post:** Ottawa

## Canada Opens Comment Period on Proposed Imidacloprid Measures

### **Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Policy and Program Announcements

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### **Report Highlights:**

During a technical briefing on May 31, 2018, representatives from the Pest Management Regulatory Authority (PMRA) provided feedback on their current re-evaluation of the pesticide imidacloprid. A 90-day public comment period for stakeholders to review the proposed regulatory decision by PMRA will close on August 29, 2018. A final decision on imidacloprid usage is anticipated in December 2018.

**Keywords:** CA18037, Canada, PMRA, Neonicotinoid, Pollinator

The pollinator risk assessment published by [Health Canada's PMRA](#) on May 30, 2018, was a re-

evaluation of the pesticide imidacloprid. It considers all additional information since the [2016 re-evaluation](#) of Imidacloprid (REV2016-05), which focused on potential risks to organisms on land and in water, but not to pollinators. The PMRA has now finished its re-evaluation of imidacloprid by taking these current findings in combination with their 2016 re-evaluation. For further details on the result of the earlier consultation, see GAIN Report [CA17008](#). The current assessment summarized the potential risks to pollinators in Canada, as well as proposed strategies to reduce the risks to pollinators.

PMRA Officials held a technical briefing on May 30, attended through teleconference by various media representatives and stakeholders. Officials explained how current findings from the re-evaluation show that some uses of imidacloprid do not pose risks to pollinators and the PMRA proposes that their use be continued. However, the PMRA has proposed the following changes to the way imidacloprid can be used because of risks to insect pollinators:

- Phase-out of foliar application on orchard fruit, some tree nuts, and most small fruit and berries
- Phase-out of soil uses on berries, some ornamentals and herbs, and outdoor-grown fruiting vegetables, cucurbits, and legumes
- Changes to the timing of foliar application on some tree nuts, strawberries, grapes, fruiting vegetables, legumes, potatoes, peanuts, tobacco, hops, and some herbs.
- Additional protective label instructions for cereal and legume seed treatment uses

A 90-day consultation period opened for stakeholder comment on May 31, and will close on August 29, 2018. PMRA's final decision on the use of imidacloprid, expected in December 2018, will consider all feedback collected during the current open consultation period as well as comments received during the previous consultation period for the 2016 re-evaluation.