

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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TO: Pesticide Applicators

FROM: Taryn LaScola-Miner, Director Crop and Pest Services

DATE: January 31, 2022

REGARDING: State Restriction of Pesticide Products Containing Neonicotinoids

The Massachusetts Pesticide Board Subcommittee (“Subcommittee”) is the entity that registers products in Massachusetts. During a recent Subcommittee meeting the Subcommittee determined that current uses of neonicotinoid pesticides used in outdoor non-structural uses or outdoor non-agricultural uses, may pose unreasonable adverse effects to the environment as well as pollinators, when considering the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of their use in the Commonwealth. Therefore, the Subcommittee voted to modify the registration classification of pesticide products containing neonicotinoids that have outdoor non-structural uses or outdoor non-agricultural uses on the label from general use to state restricted use. These uses include, but are not limited to, uses on lawn and turf, trees and shrubs, ornamentals, and homeowner vegetable and flower gardens. **The reclassification shall be effective on July 1, 2022.**

This reclassification is going to affect a large number of products and it is important that pesticide applicators begin planning for the upcoming changes. Anyone using a product that is classified as State Restricted Use must have a Commercial/Private Certification or have a Commercial Applicator License (“Core”) and be working under the Direct Supervision of someone with a Commercial/Private Certification License. The Department is providing this notice now so that companies can plan for the 2022 season. For more information about this change please visit the Frequently Asked Question document which can be found at:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/neonicotinoid-faq/download>

If you have any questions regarding this change please contact Taryn LaScola-Miner at: taryn.lascola@mass.gov