

Rite Aid Pollinator Health Policy

Rite Aid understands that pollinators are a cornerstone of a dependable food supply, and that populations of bees and other pollinators are declining around the world. A growing body of scientific evidence suggests that pollinator-toxic pesticides are among the key drivers of insect population declines.

Rite Aid is committed to business practices that support a sustainable food system and understands that food retailers can play an important role in protecting pollinator health. To this end, we encourage all of our food and beverage suppliers to reduce use of pollinator-toxic pesticides and to adopt least-toxic approaches to pest management, including biological and physical pest control and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies, in their supply chains.

Rite Aid is also committed to expanding offerings of organic products, which in turn supports pollinator health. In 2019, we introduced nearly 150 new organic food items, significantly enhancing our own brand product assortment of Better for You items in the majority of our stores.

Supplier guidance

1. Suppliers are encouraged to reduce use of pollinator-toxic pesticides and to adopt least-toxic approaches to pest management, including biological and physical pest control and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies, in their supply chains. IPM utilizes non-chemical, mechanical and biological methods of pest control, acts against pests only when necessary and uses least-toxic methods as a last resort. IPM relies on inspection and monitoring to detect and correct conditions that could lead to pest problems.
2. Suppliers are encouraged to phase-out the use of organophosphates, particularly chlorpyrifos, unless mandated otherwise by law. Analysis by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency shows that chlorpyrifos poses risks to 1,800 critically threatened or endangered species and is one of the most harmful pesticides for pollinators. To date, state-level phase outs of chlorpyrifos have passed in California and Hawaii.
3. Suppliers are encouraged to phase out use of neonicotinoids unless mandated otherwise by law. In a meta-analysis of over 1,100 peer-reviewed studies, scientists from across the globe called for immediate action to restrict neonicotinoids based on their toxicity to a range of threatened species, including bees.¹ The European Union banned the use of three neonicotinoids after a scientific review found they pose an unacceptably high risk to bees.
4. Suppliers are encouraged to phase out use of glyphosate unless mandated otherwise by law. Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide in the world. Research shows that glyphosate causes significant harm to Monarch butterflies and honey bees. Glyphosate has been banned in Germany and Austria and is restricted in hundreds of locations worldwide.
5. Suppliers are encouraged to phase out additional pesticides of concerns for pollinators. A complete list of pesticides the EPA has identified as toxic to pollinator health may be found ([here](#)).

6. Suppliers are encouraged to avoid regrettable substitutions, in which the replacement for a toxic chemical ends up being equally or more toxic than the original chemical. Regrettable substitutions for chlorpyrifos include other pollinator-toxic pesticides such as those listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Resources for safer substitutions may be found on page 2 of this guidance.

7. Application of any chemicals or pesticides is to be done in strict accordance with all applicable local and federal laws, regulations and guidelines in effect at the location of production and intended distribution. It is the supplier's responsibility to remain informed and up-to-date on all applicable laws and regulations.

For questions or comments on this guidance, please contact our Social Responsibility Program Manager, Amanda Patrick: Amanda.Patrick@riteaid.com

Resources

Friends of the Earth: Neonicotinoids, Glyphosate and Organophosphates
<https://foe.org/neonicotinoids-glyphosate/>

US EPA Policy to Mitigate the Acute Risk to Bees from Pesticide Products:
<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0818-0477>

Safer Substitutions:

1. The Pesticide Research Institute: <http://pesticideresearch.com/site/evaluator/>
2. IPM Institute: <https://pesticiderisk.org/>
3. Sustainable Food Group: <http://sustainablefoodgroup.org/>