NEONICOTINOIDE INSECTICIDES: SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION

Following the unfortunate and accidental bee-kill that happened in Oregon this past June, many activist groups have stepped up their efforts to prohibit or disrupt the use of neonicotinoids. In many cases they are trying to identify the use of these insecticides as the sole cause for Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) of European honeybees – a phenomenon, sometimes referred to by the more general term “Bee Decline,” where the worker bees do not return to their hive after foraging. However, recent reports by the USDA and EPA suggest that the cause of CCD is likely much more complicated than any one factor. The documents developed by AmericanHort and SAF attempt to shed additional light on this difficult issue by recognizing the importance of protecting our environment and our pollinator population, while fulfilling the need to protect our crops from damaging insect pests.

AmericanHort and SAF have collaborated on a letter and a “frequently asked questions” (FAQs) document to help the horticulture industry get a better sense of the challenges we now face regarding our use of neonicotinoid insecticides. These documents will help growers, landscapers, and retailers explain to their customers why these chemicals are an important part of our toolbox, and the fact that current scientific evidence supports their responsible use as part of a pest management strategy.