



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR NURSERY BEFORE BUYING

How systemic insecticides work

Systemic insecticides are used to treat plants and seeds, and are highly toxic to bees, butterflies and pollinators. Systemics move throughout the entire plant making all parts including stem, leaf, pollen and nectar toxic. Systemics stay in the soil and plants for months to years. Combining with other chemicals increases the toxicity.

Neonicotinoids (neonics) are the most common class of systemic insecticides used on plants. Other insecticides are sulfoxaflor, pyrethroids, fipronil and organophosphates.

Neonicotinoids

imidacloprid
clothianidin
thimethoxam
acetamiprid
thiacloprid

Neonics have many trade names:
advantage, enforce, temprid, poncho, safari, merit, grubex pro, ortho and more.



Ask to be sure bee-friendly flowers are safe for pollinators

1. Are these plants treated with a systemic pesticide or neonic?
2. Do your plant suppliers use systemic insecticides?
3. Would you consider removing neonic chemical products and treated plants from your shelves?

Pesticide toxicity database:
pesticideinfo.org

Plant supplier list:
pollinatorfriendly.org/habitat