

Neonicotinoids and Bees: How can the Green Industry make a positive change?
Gulf States Hort Expo
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I. What are neonicotinoids?

- a. IRAC group 4
- b. Translaminar and whole plant systemic
- c. Persistent in plants and soil; residual plant protection
- d. Transport and Fate
 Parent molecule =active ingredient
 Metabolites: for imidacloprid these are 5-hydroxy and olefin
- e. Neonics are the dominant group for T&O

II. What is the truth about bees?

- a. Educate yourself and your clients about scientific studies and ignore the garbage in social and print media
- b. Learn the terminology about testing
 Tier I and II testing
- c. Not all neonics have similar toxicology
- d. Nectar and pollen can be contaminated
- e. Sprayable formulations have greater negative impact
 -rationale behind the bee advisory box on labels

III. Why is the Green Industry at the forefront?

- a. Potential for Harm
 - Improper applications need to stop!
 - Use rates for T&O are greatest among use categories for neonics
- b. Potential for Good
 - Communication to clientele and customers prompts learning and understanding
 - Lack of flowers, but...
 Not all flowers are equally attractive or beneficial for bees

Visit my website (<http://enpp.auburn.edu/held>) for references and resources.