

Subject Neonicotinoid insecticide and insecticide-treated seeds

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Date March 9, 2026

Overview

This bill prohibits the use of neonicotinoid insecticides and certain seeds coated or treated with systemic insecticides, establishes procedures for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to issue waivers or exemptions, and sets civil penalties for violations.

Neonicotinoid insecticides are a class of pesticides that exert neurotoxic effects on insects. Systemic insecticide treated or coated seeds are seeds with insecticides designed to be absorbed by the plant through its tissue. Treated or coated seeds are exempt from pesticide regulation under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and are instead treated as “treated articles.”

Summary

Section	Description
1	Insecticide. Adds new definition of “insecticide” in chapter 18B, Pesticide Control.
2	Neonicotinoid insecticide. Adds new definition of “neonicotinoid insecticide” in chapter 18B, Pesticide Control.
3	Systemic insecticide. Adds new definition of “systemic insecticide” in chapter 18B, Pesticide Control.
4	Neonicotinoid insecticide prohibited. Prohibits anyone from using neonicotinoid insecticides on outdoor ornamental plants and turf. Establishes a procedure for MDA to allow exemptions to the general prohibition for certain environmental emergencies and under certain restrictions. Requires neonicotinoid insecticide applicators to take an annual course.

Section	Description
5	<p>Seeds coated or treated with systemic insecticide.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Systemic insecticide prohibited. Beginning January 1, 2029, prohibits the sale of certain seeds coated or treated with systemic insecticide unless the purchaser has obtained a waiver.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Waiver. Establishes a procedure for MDA to issue farm-specific waivers to purchase seeds coated or treated with systemic insecticide if the purchaser demonstrates a demonstrable need and uses the seeds in accordance with an approved pest risk assessment.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Rulemaking. Requires MDA to adopt rules before granting a waiver under subdivision 2.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Reports. Requires MDA to report to the legislature the number of waivers granted.</p> <p>Subd. 5. Record keeping and reporting. Requires pesticide dealers that sell systemic insecticide coated or treated seeds to report to the MDA the quantity of seeds sold under waivers.</p>
6	<p>Civil penalties.</p> <p>Establishes civil penalties for violations of section 18B.07 (pesticide use, application, storage, and disposal), the new section 18B.0751 (systemic insecticide treated or coated seeds), and related rules.</p>



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