Neonicotinoid Education & Research Heather Darby, Agronomist University of Vermont Extension





Impact of Treated Seed on Plant Stands

• Borderview Research Farm: Year 1

- Replicated trial
- Two treatments: treated and untreated
- Five planting dates (6th eliminated due to planting error)
- Soil & crop measureme

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Planting date	Planting da
number	
PD 1	10-May
PD 2	16-May
PD 3	26-May
PD 4	1-June
PD 5	9-June
PD 6	16-June





Impact of Treated Seed on Plant Stands



No statistical difference in corn populations between treated and untreated corn seed.





Impact of Treated Seed on Plant Stands



On-farm sites (one planting date) observes some differences in populations; however, related to bird damage and dry conditions at planting.



Impact of Treated Seed on Yields

No statistical difference in corn yields between treated and untreated corn seed.

Impact of Treated Seed on Yields

What about planting date 5? This is a 4-ton yield difference!

Seed corn maggot flight recorded on 8-Jun. Did this impact the corn yield at this planting date?

Corn Seed Maggot Flies

Frequency and concentration of clothianidin at different soil depths prior to corn planting, Alburgh, VT, 2023.

Soil type: Benson rocky silt loam, over shaly limestone

Pre-plant (9-May)

[†] The number of samples with concentration greater than reporting limit (2.0 ug/kg or ppb) divided by total number of samples (n=4), reported as a percentage of samples where analyte was detected.

‡ Average concentration of samples where concentration was greater than reporting limit.

Crop history: No direct use of neonicotinoid seed treatments in 15 years. Previous crops include hemp grain & fiber, summer annuals, milkweed. Equipment for planting same as corn in some cases.

Frequency and concentration of clothianidin in soil 41 days after planting, Alburgh, VT, 2023.

Soil type: Benson rocky silt loam, over shaly limestone

41 days after planting

[†] The number of samples with concentration greater than reporting limit (2.0 ug/kg or ppb) divided by total number of samples (n=4), reported as a percentage of samples where analyte was detected.

‡ Average concentration of samples where concentration was greater than reporting limit.

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Scope of Work: VAAFM & LCBP

• **Discovery Acres**

 Assess the impact of quality (N&P).

 Neonicotinoid movement in surface and subsurface water.

management methods on water

Existing Ditches

Frequency and concentration of clothianidin at different soil depths prior to corn planting, St. Albans, VT, 2023.

† The number of samples with concentration greater than reporting limit (2.0 ug/kg or ppb) divided by total number of samples (n=8), reported as a percentage of samples where analyte was detected.

‡ Average concentration of samples where concentration was greater than reporting limit.

Soil type: Covington clay, poorly drained.

Crop history:

3rd year of corn silage with cover crop

Historic use of neonicotinoid treated seed

Previous crop- alfalfa

Frequency and concentration of clothianidin in soil 37 days after planting, St. Albans, VT, 2023.

37 days after planting

[†] The number of samples with concentration greater than reporting limit (2.0 ug/kg or ppb) divided by total number of samples (n=8), reported as a percentage of samples where analyte was detected.

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Concentration of clothianidin in Tile & Surface water post corn planting, St. Albans, VT, 2023.

Samples with concentration greater than reporting limit (0.0500 ug/L).

*This is not the loading rate just concentrations from single samples taken from surface or tile when there was water moving off from surface or out of the tiles.

