

# Pesticide Use and Drift

is a major threat to insect pollinators, especially the persistent systemic chemicals that remain in the environment for a long time before degrading. Systemic insecticides like neonicotinoids become part of the plant and contaminate the pollen and nectar that are an essential source of food for bees and their young.

Pesticides often kill directly, but sub-lethal amounts are also detrimental to bees and other pollinators by impeding their ability to navigate or forage. (See this 2012 report, **Are Neonicotinoids Killing Bees**, for the latest information about this class of pesticides.)

The use of herbicides that eradicate important forage plants for bees and other pollinators is an additional grave concern.

