



## Sustainability at Sky Nursery

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### Neonicotinoids and pest management practices

There has been increasing concern about a class of insecticides called neonicotinoids due to their potential impact on bees and other beneficial insects. While all pesticides can be toxic to pollinators, neonicotinoids can have especially long-lasting effects.

Sky Nursery does not apply neonicotinoids to any of our outdoor plants. If you would like to avoid this class of pesticides completely, we can help.

We are committed to displaying only neonicotinoid-free plants in our seasonal “nectar café,” which makes this a great place to start for bee-friendly blooms. We are happy to help you find neonicotinoid-free plants throughout the nursery, and to provide more information about all of the plants you find here.

#### **Our Growers’ Pest Management Practices**

The growers we work with have been very open about their ecological practices. Several growers hold organic certification or other third-party certifications, and many more independently hold themselves to high standards for environmental stewardship.

Our largest suppliers of flowering annuals, perennials, and groundcovers are completely neonicotinoid-free, as are several of our largest tree and shrub suppliers. All of our growers use integrated pest management to minimize their use of pesticides, and take concern about pest management practices very seriously.

In some cases, growers are required by federal law to apply neonicotinoids to certain non-flowering trees. Some growers do not use these pesticides themselves, but may buy plugs or seeds from suppliers who do. Some growers use them under limited circumstances while transitioning to alternatives. See the list on the back of this sheet for options we know to be neonic-free.

#### **Avoiding Neonicotinoids at Home**

We support gardeners who want to eliminate neonicotinoid use in their own gardens. We recommend a holistic approach that starts with healthy soil, matching the right plant to the right place, and consistent plant care. Proper care can help prevent pest problems before they start.

If you choose to apply pesticides, we recommend those labeled for organic gardening. While these can still be toxic to pollinators and other animals, they are derived from natural materials, never contain neonicotinoids, and in some cases break down more quickly in the environment.

If you need to use a synthetic pesticide but still want to avoid neonicotinoids, check the ingredients list and avoid the following chemical names: acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, thiacloprid, and thiamethoxam. These indicate specific types of neonicotinoids.

We are always happy to answer any questions about sustainable gardening and natural pest management.

## Neonicotinoid-Free Growers

All vegetable and herb starts at Sky are sustainably grown and neonicotinoid-free, and some carry organic certification. The majority of our annuals, perennials, groundcovers, trees, shrubs, and vines are neonic-free. Look for the following neonicotinoid-free growers and suppliers here at Sky.

### *Annual, Perennials, and Groundcovers*

Blooming Nursery  
Cedar Glen  
Dirty Knees  
F&B Farms (VeriFlora certified sustainably grown)  
Ground Effects  
Henry's Plant Farm  
Langley Fine Gardens  
Little Prince  
Locati Farms  
Log House Plants  
Perennial Pleasures  
Rent's Due Ranch (WSDA certified organic)  
Skagit Gardens  
Sunbreak Nursery  
Sundquist Nursery  
Thomson's Greenhouse  
Valleybrook  
Verkist  
Westwind (edibles are certified organic)  
Windy Meadows  
Xera Plants  
Zenith Holland

### *Trees, Shrubs, and vines*

Clearview  
Eshraghi  
Hines  
Iseli  
Monrovia (except on spruce as legally required)

### *Seeds*

Baker Creek  
Botanical Interests  
Deep Harvest  
High Mowing  
Renee's Garden  
Territorial