

May 2017 Conservation News

I found this article useful. It explains the many pitfall that exist when recycling. Although it was written and published for Michigan. It's pertinent here in Chester County!

I find these tips to be useful in Chester County, Pa, and think that they are probably useful in most areas. In most important message is: be careful, check with your local recycler, don't take for granted that by recycling you are "doing a good." By getting "clever", you might be working against your own effort and end up sending you recyclables as well as others to a landfill.

<http://www.wzzm13.com/news/local/verify/verify-to-recycle-or-not-to-recycle/434630161>

Shirt to help protect national parks!

<https://www.facebook.com/257442644661521/photos/p.258009821271470/258009821271470/?type=3&th>

Contributed by Kim Frisbe:

Hi Biddie - I just received this from the conservation chair of the PBGC - as we're all trying to help the Monarchs by planting milkweed, this is very disturbing - maybe pass on to the rest of the committee! All best, Kim :)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Garden Club" <[gcpalm@aol.com](mailto:gcpalm@aol.com)>  
**Subject: FW: Milkweed Treated with Systemics**  
**Date:** May 3, 2017 at 9:20:56 AM EDT  
**To:** "Undisclosed Recipients" <[gcpalm@aol.com](mailto:gcpalm@aol.com)>

**From:** [ethebaut@att.net](mailto:ethebaut@att.net) [<mailto:ethebaut@att.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 03, 2017 8:30 AM  
**To:** Garden Club  
**Subject:** Milkweed Treated with Systemics

**Subject: ALERT- Milkweed Treated with Systemics**  
**From:** Florida Federation of Garden Clubs  
<[FFGC@wildapricot.org](mailto:FFGC@wildapricot.org)>  
**Subject: Milkweed**  
**Date:** May 2, 2017 at 8:37:40 AM EDT



***Florida Federation of Garden Clubs,  
Inc.***

**Dear Garden Club Presidents and District Directors,  
As a member of NGC Board I have received this  
email from President, Sandy Robinson.**

**We are aware of the deleterious effect to butterflies  
and bees and the need for us to spread the  
word especially to Home Depot.**

**Inger**

**TO: 2015-2017 Board of Directors  
FROM: Sandy Robinson, President  
DATE: April 27, 2017  
SUBJECT: Milkweed**

**It has been brought to my attention that some “Big  
Stores” have been selling Milkweed plants that have  
been treated with systemic Neonicotinoids. This will kill**

caterpillars! Please, be aware and be on the lookout for these tags placed in plants. Please pass this information along to your garden club members!

[See the below letter and picture I received from Mary Ellen Miller explaining the situation:](#)

Dear Sandy, I know you are busy ending your term. We, in New Orleans, just hosted the Deep South and LGCF Conventions, but this needs immediate attention. I purchased a Milkweed plant from Home Depot near my home and it wasn't until I got home that I noticed the little information stick hidden behind the identification information that the plant had been treated with systemic Neonicotinoids. The container boasted how desirable the plant is for birds and butterflies. Yesterday I went to a different Home Depot and they had just put out an entire rolling cart of these plants, maybe about 100, all poisoned. I contacted the store manager and told him that it is the same as giving poison candy to kids on Halloween. This is THE host plant for the Monarch. My club, Shady Oaks and our junior club, Little Shadows have worked so hard to establish a Monarch Way station and to educate people on the decline of the Monarch. I hate to think of the millions of poison Milkweed being distributed nationwide by Home Depot.

The container says distributed by Home Depot, 2455 Paces Ferry Rd N. W., Atlanta , Georgia.

I contacted the LSU Ag Agent for New Orleans, Dr Joe Willis. He said the Neonicotinoids will dilute as the

plants grow but that only a very small amount will kill the larva of the Monarch. He is contacting the Master Gardeners of the area. I contacted the newsletters of the Jefferson Parish Council of Garden Clubs and the Federated Council of New Orleans Garden Clubs to ask that they send a notice to our local members. I contacted a local GOA club and the president said she would inform her members. I contacted our LGCF President and our Environmental School Chairman with the information.

We need a notice to Home Depot from a national source. I contacted the Monarch Watch organization , [www.MonarchWatch.org/ws](http://www.MonarchWatch.org/ws) at the University of Kansas (1200 Sunnyside Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045) . The Little Shadows Junior Garden Club registered our Monarch Waystation with them.

Sandy we need a response from NGC to this issue. It needs to be sent soon as these plants are being sold now to well meaning people who are wanting to help the Monarch not kill them. I know you are very busy but I hate to think of the billions of plants being sold nationwide and how that will cancel the efforts of so many to stop the demise of the Monarch. Could you please help?

Mary Ellen Miller

Shady Oaks Garden Club , LGCF District II

Moderator Little Shadows Junior Garden Club

Immediate Past President Federated Council of New Orleans Garden Clubs Inc.

[memiller306@yahoo.com](mailto:memiller306@yahoo.com)

[\(504\)723-7796](tel:(504)723-7796)



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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Follow up from Linda Fraser on GCA response to the neonicotinoids in "pollinator plants." Please share this as you wish.  
Lucinda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Linda Fraser** <[lindafrasergca@gmail.com](mailto:lindafrasergca@gmail.com)>

Date: Fri, May 5, 2017 at 3:05 PM

Subject: Neonicotinoid Follow-up

To: Missy Jensen <[missyjensen@me.com](mailto:missyjensen@me.com)>, Barbara Tuffli <[barbara.tuffli@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.tuffli@gmail.com)>

Thank you for your quick action in getting the information out on the Milkweed Neonicotinoid Alert.

Today, the Executive Board of The Garden Club of America sent letters to The Honorable Scott Pruitt, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and to The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, calling for their action regarding plants and seeds treated with neonicotinoids being sold in home improvement stores and garden centers.

We are attaching copies of both letters and hope that you will share this news with your Club Presidents and Corresponding Club Chairs.

Again, thank you for alerting your clubs and taking action.

With all best regards, Linda, Missy and Barbara

This article may well have suggestions you all are doing, but for me, at least the one suggestion to provide hangers and bags for the cleaner is a new thought. We tend to recycle, but simply providing our own hangers and bags is great.

Now to persuade George to do this. LOL!

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/reduce-plastic-use-water-pollution\\_us\\_590816f6e4b05c397681f20b](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/reduce-plastic-use-water-pollution_us_590816f6e4b05c397681f20b)

Get news for an alternative to DEET:

<https://www.treehugger.com/lawn-garden/cdc-confirms-lemon-eucalyptus-oil-as-effective-as-deet.html>



THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

14 EAST 60<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10022-1006

212.753.8287/FAX 212.753.0134/GCAMERICA.ORG

May 5, 2017

The Honorable Sonny Perdue Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S. W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

The Garden Club of America is concerned about the presence of neonicotinoids in many seeds and plants sold at home-improvement stores and gardening centers. Because many such plants are pretreated with neonicotinoids, Americans are unknowingly exposing pollinators to neuro-disruptive insecticides.

The pollen and nectar of treated plants may contain "neonic" residues that can prove lethal to pollinators. Such residue may persist in plants and soil for months after application and has been found in woody plants up to six years after application. Milkweed treated with neonicotinoids poses a particular concern, as it can be lethal to monarch larvae. According to Dr. Chip Taylor of Monarch Watch, a monarch caterpillar may die after eating only two to three bites of a neonicotinoid-treated milkweed plant. Consumers are largely unaware of the presence of neonicotinoids in the plants they purchase. Thus, even those who are attempting to help protect pollinators by planting pollinator-attracting plants such as milkweed may be unknowingly harming them.

Since pollination is an ecosystem service that humans depend on through its link to food production, it plays an economically valuable role: in fact, a study by Cornell University estimated that pollinators contribute \$29 billion to U.S. farm income ([Ramanujan, 2012](#)). In addition to their economic value, pollinators provide aesthetic and cultural value as many wildflowers and garden plants require pollination to live.

With 18,000+ members nationwide, The Garden Club of America is a nonpartisan organization that for more than a century has cared deeply about protecting biodiversity. The Garden Club of America's position paper on Sustainable Agriculture, Seed Diversity, and Food Security supports "recognizing the importance of pollinators and encouraging them by increasing and preserving natural habitat and supporting efforts to work with pesticide manufacturers, agricultural interests, and beekeepers to determine best management practices for pollinator health." With this in mind, we ask that the U.S. Department of Agriculture take action to require seed and plant distributors either to stop using neonicotinoids or, at minimum, to clearly mark the treated plants so that consumers can make informed decisions.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

  
On behalf of the Executive Board of The Garden Club of America  
Anne P. Copenhaver, President of The Garden Club of America



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May 5, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
William Jefferson Clinton Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
Mail Code: 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:


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