

Ban on pesticides for private and allotment gardens

On 30th September 2013 the EU Commission, competent for this matter, has issued a ban on the use of pesticides with the active substances **Imidacloprid** and **Thiamethoxam** in private and allotment gardens.

The reason for this is the importance of the protection of bees. As of 1st October 2013 products containing the above-named substances can no longer be sold. But what is even more important for hobby gardeners: the products may also no longer be used. Any use is banned by this regulation as of 1st October, 2013.

When buying products against biting and sucking insects, make sure that they do not contain these substances. Combinations with these two substances are also forbidden.

Specialized shops generally pay attention to these regulations in particular as the sale of pesticides requires specialized training in this field. Products covered are preparations of the companies **Bayer** and **COMPO**. The name of the substance is always mentioned on the packaging. The names of the pesticides containing the banned substances are listed below:

Active substance: Imidacloprid

Product name in Germany (The name might be different in other countries):

- Bayer Garten 3 in 1 Schädlingsfrei
- Bayer Garten 3 in 1 Schädlingsfrei Lizetan
- Lizetan-Combistäbchen
- Bayer Garten Combistäbchen
- Bayer Garten Combistäbchen Lizetan neu
- Lizetan Plus Zierpflanzenspray
- Provado Gartenspray
- Bayer Garten Spinnmilbenspray
- Bayer Garten Zierpflanzenspray
- Bayer Garten Gartenspray
- Bayer Garten Rosen Schädlingssspray
- Bayer Garten Zierpflanzenspray Lizetan
- Bayer Garten Rosen-Schädlingssspray Provado
- Bayer Garten Gartenspray Provado
- Bayer Garten Combigranulat Lizetan
- Bayer Garten Combigranulat

Active substance: Thiamethoxam

Product name in Germany (The name might be different in other countries):

- COMPO Axoris Insekten-frei Spritz- und Gießmittel
- COMPO Axoris Insekten-frei Konzentrat
- COMPO Axoris Insekten-frei AF
- COMPO Axoris Zierpflanzen-Spray
- COMPO Axoris Insekten-frei für Orchideen
- COMPO Axoris
- Insekten-frei Quick-Granulat
- COMPO Axoris Insektenfrei

There is no transitory period for selling or using these products. The ban is applicable immediately since 1st October 2013.

Evaluation

Even though with Thiamethoxam and Imidacloprid two substances are banned from the use in private and allotment gardens which due to their systemic effect had their strengths mostly in the fight against hidden parasites as mealy bugs and lice for interior plants, the Bundesverband Deutscher Gartenfreunde (German allotment garden federation) welcomes this temporary rest order.

In fact **Neonicotinoide** is suspected to have sub-lethal effects on bees. Sub-lethal effects are toxicological impacts on perception, coordination and cognition of organisms. The German allotment garden federation is since a long time working for the protection of honey and wild bees in various projects and actions. In fact the link between gardens and apiculture has tradition: no bees, no harvest and no colourful diversity!

The EU Commission has announced that it will proceed within two years to a verification of new scientific data gathered in the meantime.



pictures from Thomas WAGNER