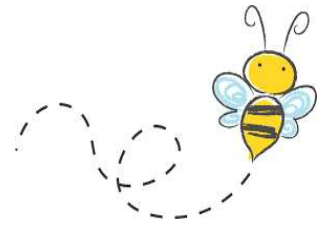


BUYING BEE-SAFE PLANTS IN WEST METRO DENVER - 2019



We now know that many greenhouse plants have been pre-treated with neonicotinoid systemic insecticides which are toxic to pollinators and remain in plants for months if not years. In 2014, over 50% of bee-attracting plants at big box stores tested positive for neonicotinoids. However, in 2019, most growers have moved away from using these pesticides. This list reflects the self-reporting and policies of many local retailers and wholesalers...and it's still always best – and very important - to ask a manager or a long-term employee about their pesticide use and how to identify bee-safe plants. And, please say THANK YOU for growing bee-safe!

RETAILERS COMMITTED TO BEE-SAFE PLANTS!

We love these guys! Committed to 100% neonic-free plants!

Al's Pine Nursery

6815 W. 44th Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

A great local mom and pop nursery, Al's only uses natural pesticides on houseplants as needed. (Note that they do not grow the bare root plants like grapes, raspberries, currants, etc so they cannot guarantee them). Bring cash or check, as they do not take credit cards.

No Phone or Website (but a facebook page!)

Harlequin Gardens

4795 N. 26th St, Boulder, CO 80301

100% pesticide and chemical-input free! What a great place to go buy plants - an adventure complete with chickens, ducks, and big views but I would call first to see if they have what you are looking for, since they specialize in natives, perennials and vegetables. (Not a big selection of annuals.) They are so committed they won't even stock plants or trees that are known to have insect problems and might be sprayed later on!

www.harlequinsgardens.com

(303) 939-9403

McGuckin's Hardware

2525 Arapahoe Ave, Boulder, CO 80302

Full-service nursery carrying a complete line of annuals and perennials throughout the growing season, all untreated and bee-safe! They have also eliminated glyphosate (RoundUp) from their shelves.

www.mcguckin.com

(303) 443-1822

Sage Thymes

8550 W. Ohio Place, Lakewood CO 80226

A small but well-stocked seasonal nursery right in Lakewood! Chris opens up a self-serve shop on her porch sometime in April and sells through the summer. She specializes in herbs and vegetables but also has flowers and seeds. Everything is raised without pesticides. Please bring cash or check and contact her for more details.

www.sagethymes.com

(720) 480-1017

Local Farmer's Markets & Plant Sales

Most plants started by small growers/farmers are safe and they are right there to ask!

Various

High Country Gardens

www.highcountrygardens.com

Online/Phone Order Only

(800) 925-9387

This famous nursery in Santa Fe, NM specializes in xeric/native plants and is a leader in the bee-safe movement! They have eliminated 100% of neonics in their plants and seeds. They are still working on flower bulbs. (Currently wholesalers in the Netherlands do not use neonics, but some are grown in previously contaminated ground - I love that they are so careful to specify!) They have recently eliminated their catalog in order to save resources, but have expanded their website to include detailed planting guides and videos.

Center for ReSource Conservation

www.conservationcenter.org/gardens

These folks have unique “Gardens in a Box” for sale each spring with complete instructions and plants for a small garden space. You must order early in the year because they will sell out. All plants are neonic-free and gardens range from xeric to pollinator-attracting to themed vegetable combinations. You select a date and location for pick up in the metro area. Prices range from \$80-\$180 and that is a great deal for 15-30+ plants!

(MOSTLY) LOCAL WHOLESALE BRANDS THAT ARE BEE-SAFE

These growers do not use neonicotinoids in their greenhouses, with certain noted exceptions.

Look for labels on the tag or pot! This is not a complete list, as others may be bee-safe.

BONNIE PLANTS

BOTANY LANE (“Just Dig It” & “Proven Winners”)

BROWN’S GREENHOUSE

CALABRESE GREENHOUSE

FORT COLLINS WHOLESALE NURSERY

***HARDY BOY** (except for 10” pots and larger)

GULLEY GREENHOUSE

KIYOTA GREENHOUSE

LAPORTE AVENUE NURSERY

LITTLE VALLEY WHOLESALE (old liners may contain residues)

RETAIL NURSERIES THAT GROW THEIR OWN BEE-SAFE PLANTS

These nurseries grow a significant portion of their inventory using only beneficial insects or natural products and have primarily neonic-free wholesalers as well. Always ask how to identify the plants grown on-site and look, or ask, for the above safe wholesale brands!

City Floral Greenhouse

www.cityfloralgreenhouse.com

1440 Kearney St, Denver, CO 80220

(303) 399-1177

Although this is in east Denver, I listed it because the plant manager there was very responsive to my questions and concerned for the bees.

Echter’s Garden Center

www.echters.com

5150 Garrison St, Arvada, CO 80002

(303) 424-7979

Echter’s grows many of their own plants and admit that they sometimes might use neonicotinoids if there is a severe infestation, and the only way to know if they have is to ask Production Manager, Joy Knox, who will be upfront about any use. This does make shopping at Echter’s more challenging but their honesty is appreciated. Plants grown onsite will often be in a burgundy pot that says “Plant for Success”. Most flower baskets and 6-pack annuals are also grown there.

Giambrocco & Sons Garden Center

14005 W. 64th Ave, Arvada, CO 80004

(303) 421-7228

In 2017, Giambrocco said they do not use neonics on their own plants, which is 90% of their inventory.

Jared's Nursery

10500 W. Bowles Ave, Littleton, CO 80127

www.jaredsgarden.com

(303) 979-6022

They don't use neonics in their greenhouse and use primarily neonic-free growers such as Botany Lane and Hardy Boy*.

Jensen's Flower & Garden

845 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood CO 80215

www.jensensflowerandgarden.com

(303) 237-5545

Jensen's grows their own vegetables, many perennials and some annuals in their greenhouses in Golden and do not use neonicotinoids. You can look for their "Golden Eagle Grower" brand.

Novacek's Greenhouse

2635 Youngfield St, Golden CO 80401

www.novacekgreenhouse.com

(303) 237-3572

They grow most of their plants onsite and do not use neonics in general. They may use neonicotinoids in some of the hanging baskets and some of the geraniums. Ask owner, Gerald Novacek, for specifics on these.

Paulino Gardens

6300 N. Broadway, Denver CO 80216

www.paulinogardens.com

(303) 429-8062

Paulino's says they do not use any neonics on bedding plants or vegetables that they grow there. (They DO use them on houseplants as needed.) Start with the customer service desk for more information on identifying their plants.

Tagawa Gardens

7711 S. Parker Road, Centennial, CO 80016

www.tagawagardens.com

(303) 690-4722

Retail Manager, Beth Zwinak, says that they only use beneficial insects and no insecticides in their greenhouses. Their in-house plants can be identified by a "Tagawa(R) Own" or "Grey Kitty(R) Purr-furred" labels on plants. They seek out other growers that are neonic-free and you can ask a department head or Beth about any plants from outside growers.

Young's Market & Garden Center

9400 W. 44th Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

www.youngsmarketandgardencenter.com

(303) 422-8408

They do not use neonics in their greenhouse and primarily use neonic-free wholesalers like Kiyoto, Botany Lane and Brown's.

*****This list was compiled to the best of my ability based on self-reporting of nurseries and growers. To receive any updated information or a pdf version of this document, please e-mail me at kellimlin@gmail.com***

RETAIL NURSERIES THAT DO NOT GROW THEIR OWN PLANTS

These are the trickiest places to shop because they do not grown any plants on site and often even managers don't understand the complexities of quarantines across state lines that can result in treated plants. Even so, do your best to ask a manager directly for the best information.

Abner's Garden Center

12880 W. 44th Ave, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

www.abnersgardencenter.com

(303) 424-0180

Abner's does not grow plants onsite but carries plants from a variety of local wholesalers including some that are bee safe. Ask the owner, Reed, for more information.

O'Toole's Garden Center

1404 Quail St, Lakewood, CO 80215 (+ other locations) (303) 232-6868

www.otoolesgardencenter.com

O'Toole's is just hard. Because they do not grow any of their own plants, you have to look for plants by bee-safe wholesalers and you must ask a manager – not a staff person – for information. Three of their big suppliers of annuals, Botany Lane, Welby's Hardy Boy Brands* and Premier (out of California) are all neonic-free. Besides these known brands, I have received inconsistent information there for years as most employees understandably want to believe that all their plants are bee-safe and will tell you so. Yet the Lakewood store manager, Wayne, and Patrick O'Toole, will tell you that they just don't know. O'Toole's gets big points though this spring as they are asking their other growers to give them a written statement about neonicotinoid use so they can educate their staff and the public better. So, hopefully, we can shop there with more ease soon.

BIG BOX STORES: NOT YOUR BEST CHOICE, BUT NO LONGER YOUR WORST EITHER!

These big chains are changing the industry and for that we must give them credit! By responding to consumer demands and actions from Friends of the Earth and other activist groups, they are forcing the big growers to clean up their acts! However, the tricky thing about shopping at big box stores for now, is that most employees won't have information regarding pesticide use. You can look for safe brands like Bonnie!

Home Depot: Committed to eliminate neonics in their supply chain by the end of 2018 and claim only 20% are still treated. Currently labeling treated plants with (sneaky) reverse labeling tags that say, "This plant is protected from white flies, aphids, etc by neonicotinoid pesticides..." But still...it's progress!

Lowe's: Committed to eliminate neonics in their supply chain by the end of 2019.

Costco: Committed to "reduce" neonicotinoid use and providing more organic choices.

True Value: Claims to have eliminated all pesticide products containing neonics and working towards eliminating neonics in their plants.

Walmart: Claim that 80% of their plants are neonic-free. They are moving toward eliminating most pesticides containing neonics from their shelves as well.

Ace Hardware: Has said it is willing to eliminate neonicotinoid products by Spring 2019, but have not yet addressed eliminating neonicotinoids on plants.

Updated 4/2019