

MORE ON NEONICITINIDS

(a.k.a. Neonics)

Just last year, the organization Friends of the Earth, learned that the presence of Eastern Monarch butterflies in their wintering grounds **DROPPED 22%!**



These are serious findings. Monarch butterflies are at risk of extinction. Some estimates show population declines of up to 95% since the 1990s. A key factor in these declines is toxic pesticides like Bayer-Monsanto's Roundup and other neonics including glyphosate.

Monarchs' migration patterns are uniquely impressive. They travel around 3,000 miles every year, providing invaluable pollination along the way. But in the last few decades, the use of herbicides like Roundup has grown dramatically.

The dangers don't end there. Glyphosate is a probable carcinogen. It's also associated with reproductive harm in humans, along with disruption of the gut microbiome, kidney toxicity, and fatty liver disease. Farmers and homeowners are suing Bayer-Monsanto due to high rates of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma linked to the Roundup they've used on their farms and lawns. Without milkweed, it is nearly impossible for monarch young to hatch and survive.

Profits from sales of these poisons over pollinators, people, and the planet need to be rejected. Perfection is a myth and this article advises that we suburbanites reject that concept, for gardens and for lawns.

The main marketed neonicotinoids are imidacloprid, thiamethoxam clothianidin, thiacloprid, dinotefuran, acetamiprid, nitenpyram and sulfoxaflor. You can avoid purchasing products with any of these in their ingredients. That would be a step in the right direction to enable Cheltenham Township to meet one of its sustainability goals – Ecological Stewardship.

Ecological Stewardship GOAL: protect and improve the overall health and ecological diversity of the township's habitats, waterways, and soils, both on public and private lands.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Ensure clean and healthy indoor and outdoor air quality.**
- 2. Plant native species and remove invasive species.**
- 3. Research and reduce use of harmful chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides indoors and out and implement the use of healthy alternatives.**
- 4. Promote best gardening practices for food, beauty, and ecosystem enhancement.**
- 5. Increase tree cover and improve the care and maintenance of trees.**