

Purpose and Use of the Crop Attractiveness Document:

This document builds on a similar effort by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA 2013), and provides a compilation of information from published literature on the attractiveness of U.S. crops to pollinating bees. This document also provides information on agronomic practices that are relevant to crop-bee interactions. The primary purpose of this document is to assist regulatory agencies in pesticide risk assessment, particularly in evaluating the potential risks to bees of pesticide exposure while foraging on these crops.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with its regulatory partners, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Authority (PMRA) and California's Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) have defined a harmonized process for quantifying pesticide risks to bees (EPA/PMRA/CDPR, 2014). This risk assessment process begins with a qualitative evaluation of the potential for bees to be exposed to pesticides based on the use prescribed on the label. Multiple lines of evidence are considered in this initial evaluation of exposure potential, including, but not limited to the location of the pesticide application (e.g., indoor vs. outdoor), application timing (e.g., before, during or after crop flowering), agronomic practices (e.g., harvesting the crop before or after bloom), the need for managed bee pollination services, and the extent to which bees are attracted to the crop. Importantly, a crop that is considered attractive to bees does not imply *de facto* pesticide risk; rather, it indicates a potential for bees to be exposed if other factors do not mitigate exposure (e.g., timing of application relative to bloom). In addition, the information contained in this resource (e.g., crop acreage, agronomic practices, and crop attractiveness) serves as one of multiple lines of evidence used to inform decisions on whether to pursue further refinements in the risk assessment process as well as possible options for risk mitigation.

The information in this document also has other potential uses. For example, it could be used by farmers and beekeepers in several ways, including: to identify which crops may provide a good source of pollen or nectar, to help identify crops that require bee pollination for fruit or seed set, and to help farmers better understand when and where apiaries are likely to occur in their local areas. This latter point could be useful for farmers and beekeepers when they develop Managed Pollinator Protection Plans.