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Press Release

More than a half million people demand Home Depot and Lowe's stop selling bee-killing pesticides

Eugene rally part of 5 cities participating in bee swarm actions across the country during Valentine's week

EUGENE, ORE. — This week, over 27,000 people [coast-to-coast are swarming Lowe's and Home Depot stores](#) to support the bees that pollinate our flowers for Valentine's Day. In a coalition effort called the Bee Week of Action, Beyond Toxics is joining Friends of the Earth and allies to deliver more than half a million petition signatures and Valentines asking these retailers to "show bees some love" by taking pesticides shown to harm and kill bees -- and garden plants treated with these pesticides -- off their shelves.

In Eugene, the rally or "Bee Swarm" is organized by Beyond Toxics and Oregon Sustainable Beekeepers:

What: "Bee Swarm" outside of West Eugene's Home Depot ([MAP of rally location](#))

Where: 808 Seneca Road, Eugene, OR 97402

When: Saturday, February 15, 11:30 am

This local **Bee Swarm** rally is part of a national week of action that is calling on retailers to stop selling neonicotinoids -- the most widely used class of pesticides in the world -- due to a growing body of scientific evidence indicating that the pesticides are a key factor in recent global bee deaths.

Bees and other pollinators, essential for the two-thirds of the food crops humans eat every day, are dwindling worldwide. In recent years, U.S. beekeepers have reported losses averaging 30 percent per year, some report losses of up to 40 to 100 percent of hives, and they are likely facing another winter of historic bee die-offs. ([BBC report on Europe's significant winter bee losses](#))

A groundbreaking [pilot study](#) released last summer (Friends of The Earth) found that many bee-friendly garden plants sold at Home Depot and Lowe's contained neonicotinoid pesticides with no warning to consumers.

"Home Depot and Lowe's need to show bees some love and stop poisoning them with bee-killing pesticides. We and other national groups are calling on these stores to help solve the bee crisis by immediately removing neonicotinoid pesticides and home garden plants that are treated with these harmful chemicals from their shelves," said Lisa Arkin, executive director of Beyond Toxics.

The European Union's two-year ban on the most widely used neonics went into effect in December. In January, the European Food Safety Authority cited evidence that two neonicotinoids, acetamiprid and imadacloprid, "may affect the developing human nervous system" of children, and they recommended further restricting their use.

[Read more about our campaign to protect Oregon's bees.](#)

Beyond Toxics, an Oregon non-profit, has worked to guarantee environmental protections and health for all communities and residents since 2000. We expose root causes of toxic pollution, health inequities and help communities find effective, lasting solutions.

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