

October 20, 2011



The preeminent periodical “ [The Agricultural Informer](#) ” reported the unexpected record production of maize in Italy during 2011, which affected collection and storage, and even caused a fall in stock price.

The record crop contradicts the predictions and scientific studies by Milan University, which predicted a 150m Euro loss as a result of the end of maize tanning. The record crop contradicts Professor Maggiore who railed against the "catastrophic" results of tanning practices were ended. The record crop also contradicts the study presented by Nomisma that predicted damage to corn as a consequence of suspending the use of neonicotinoids.

This suggests that the production of corn in Italy in the last three years is more influenced by meteorological variables rather than diseases.

Due to crop rotation and other agronomic pest prevention methods, the average yield per

hectare in recent years was not affected by the presence of corn rootworm.

As a result of the prohibition of using tanning neonicotinoids in the production of maize, the Italian bee is showing 'a strong recovery, after a decrease in the population of bees in recent years'. This confirms the relationship of [INEA in 2011](#) .

In France beekeeping is still in crisis.

Cruiser is still authorised for use on corn, and is in wide use Gaucho, Poncho and Regent are currently prohibited. Chemical corporations defend the use of their products in the production of corn, and state that "the only alternative to summer sprays are systemic tanning treatments". In fact, due to the use and abuse of Cruiser 'it was made necessary' to implement

[aerial spraying](#)

of pesticides during the summer,

[with a severe environmental impact](#)

This practice disregards the recommendations of apiaries.



The recent Italian bumper crop, following the prohibition of neonicotinoid crop tanning, contradicts claims by French chemical companies.

In Italy, the spraying of insecticide **has a high probability of coinciding with flowering**, as reported by the

[Lombard beekeeping association Apilombardia](#)

The Lombardy Region

, which seems to ignore the quantity and timing of insecticide treatments made on corn in July,

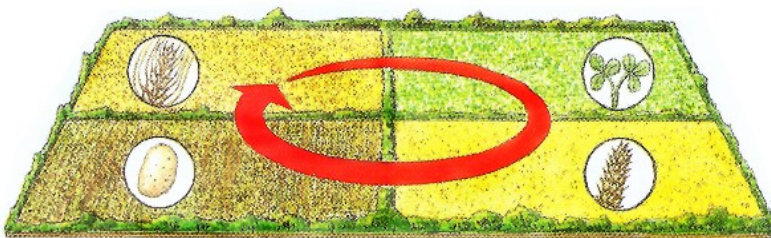
has responded that it will carry out

[careful surveillance of the situation.](#)



In Italy the most authoritative agronomists have expressed doubt about the effectiveness of insecticide treatments made on rootworm in July. **The cost-benefit ratio for the use of neonicotinoids to increased maize production is clearly unbalanced.**

The record maize crop for 2011 shows a stark contrast between opinions on whether or not rootworm is a serious problem. The Guild of Agricultural Chemicals and the press, largely bankrolled by chemical industry advertisers, is in favour of the use of neonicotinoids.



It continues to foment fear of inviting farmers to take action against rootworm regardless of any technical data, continuing to herald **the end of maiscoltura possible if will not be re-authorized the banning neonicotinoids,** whereas **field data indicate a presence of indisputable now ubiquitous parasite but, with rare exceptions, controllable rotation, non-injurious to normal production maudicole.**

