Mite Control Calendar for NE Ohio

April – FA if it's an over wintered hive or nuc. OA if it's a package.

May – None needed unless mite signs are noticed. (See note #6)

June – OA touchup treatment

July – None needed unless mite signs are noticed

August – FA treatment – Very important for winter survival

September – None needed unless mite signs are needed

October – FA treatment

November - None needed unless mite signs are noticed

December – OA touchup treatment

January / February – OA touchup treatment on a >40F day

Notes:

1. FA - Formic Acid. See page #3 for instructions and tips.
2. OA – Oxalic Acid. See page #3 for instructions and tips.
3. Treatment Schedules are for the first week of every month.
4. Clean mite board before each treatment to see effectivity of treatment.
5. A single FA treatment can be substituted with 3 OA treatments, each a week apart.
6. Mite signs – Mites on bees or mites seen in drone comb

Lorain County Beekeepers Association

http://www.loraincountybeekeepers.org/

Varroa Control for the Busy Beekeeper

"I bury my head into your bees and slowly, slowly suck out their life. I spread disease, and if you don't control me, your bees will die a horrible……slow……death."

Not controlling varroa is torturous and cruel to your bees !

LORAIN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Who should use this varroa control program?

- New beekeepers absolutely!
- Some intermediate and "seasoned" beekeepers
  - Those who don't have time for regular inspections
  - Those who can't master an alcohol wash to test mite levels
  - Those who won't sacrifice 300 bees for an alcohol wash
  - Those who can't seem to filter out poor advice from social media and non- "experts."

Who should not use this program?

- Those beekeepers who are very adept and disciplined to properly monitor mite levels with an alcohol wash and decide on a corresponding mite plan.
- There are VERY few beekeepers of this type

What can go wrong with this varroa treatment plan?

- Your bees become strong and tough and start robbing weaker hives that are infested with mites. Excessive mites on mite board can be a sign.
- Taking contrary advice from social media.
- Taking contrary advice from an "expert."
- Beekeeper becomes lazy and misses a treatment

Worker capped day 9 - Emerges day 21

Drone capped day 11 – Emerges day 24

Queen capped day 9 – Emerges day 16 – Mating flights days 20 – 30 – Start laying eggs – after day 23

Varroa treatment options for a new package:

- Oxalic Acid (OA) dribble while bees are still in the package
- OA dribble <u>after</u> installing bees into the hive
- OA vaporization while bees are still in the package
- OA vaporization <u>after</u> installing bees into the hive.
- All methods achieve the same result of cleaning up any residual mites.

OA Dribble Tips:

- Recipe
  - Mix 2.5 tbsp. OA crystal with 1.5 cups <u>warm</u> water.
  - Add 2 cups sugar and mix very well
  - Makes enough for about 10 deep boxes
- Separate brood chambers (Usually deep boxes)
- Gently smoke bees down between frames
- Using a syringe, dribble 5ml of solution between frames.
- No more than 50ml of solution / deep box
- No more than 100ml per hive.
- Multiple OA dribble treatments may result in damage to the queen, but is still better than high mite loads.

Formic Acid (FA) Tips:

- Watch the video from the manufacturer at: Nodglobal.com
- Do NOT used expired strips – These can kill bees.
- Only add strips if daily temperatures will be BELOW 85F for the first 3 days of treatment
- Only add strips if daily temperatures will be ABOVE 50F for the first 3 days of treatment.

Watch the video from the manufacturer at: Nodglobal.com !