

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/>



Beekeeping Ain't That Hard!

Varroa Control for the Busy Beekeeper



Beekeeping Ain't That Hard!

MY NAME IS DESTRUCTOR...
VARROA DESTRUCTOR.



"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



Beekeeping Ain't That Hard!

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 after installing bees into the hive
- OA vaporization while bees are still in the package
- OA vaporization after 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 warm 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 use 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 !