

Varroa Mite Control Methods

Determine mite population before & after each treatment method

Control Method	Pros	Cons
Drone Brood Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates Varroa mites before they can reproduce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very labor intensive Only removes Varroa under capped brood
Genetics (hygienic behavior)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long term solution Reduces chemical use Removes phoretic and developing Varroa (under capped brood) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be limited availability of queens Higher cost than other methods
HopGuard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic acid Can apply when honey supers in place Quick mite knock down Inexpensive Varroa have not build up resistance Easy application Not temperature dependent above 50 degrees F 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and relatively untested Only kills phoretic mites Short term solution Unlikely to be used alone for season-long mite control
Powdered Sugar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completely organic Quick mite knock down Good treatment for swarms (no brood) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very labor intensive Requires strict adherence to rigid application schedule
Mite Away Quick Strip (MAQS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only miticide that kills Varroa in capped brood cells as well as phoretic mites, 7 day treatment Honey supers can be in place when applied Naturally occurring organic acid (found in honey) Easier application than prior formulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and relatively untested Possible affect on egg laying Requires blocking screened bottom board Requires minimum 6 frames of bees Temperature dependent after 93 degrees Respirator suggested
Screen Bottom Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanical Varroa control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not effective alone
Synthetic Chemicals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apistan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varroa kill over full treatment cycle of 42 – 54 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varroa building up resistance Contaminates comb Does not affect Varroa under capped brood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coumaphos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varroa kill over full treatment cycle of 42 – 45 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as above but does require special handling and disposal.
Thymol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Api-Life-Var Apiguard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naturally occurring organic chemical Mites have not built up resistance Quick mite knock down 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very aromatic Can not use with honey supers in place Requires blocking screened bottom board Only affects phoretic mites Temperature dependent