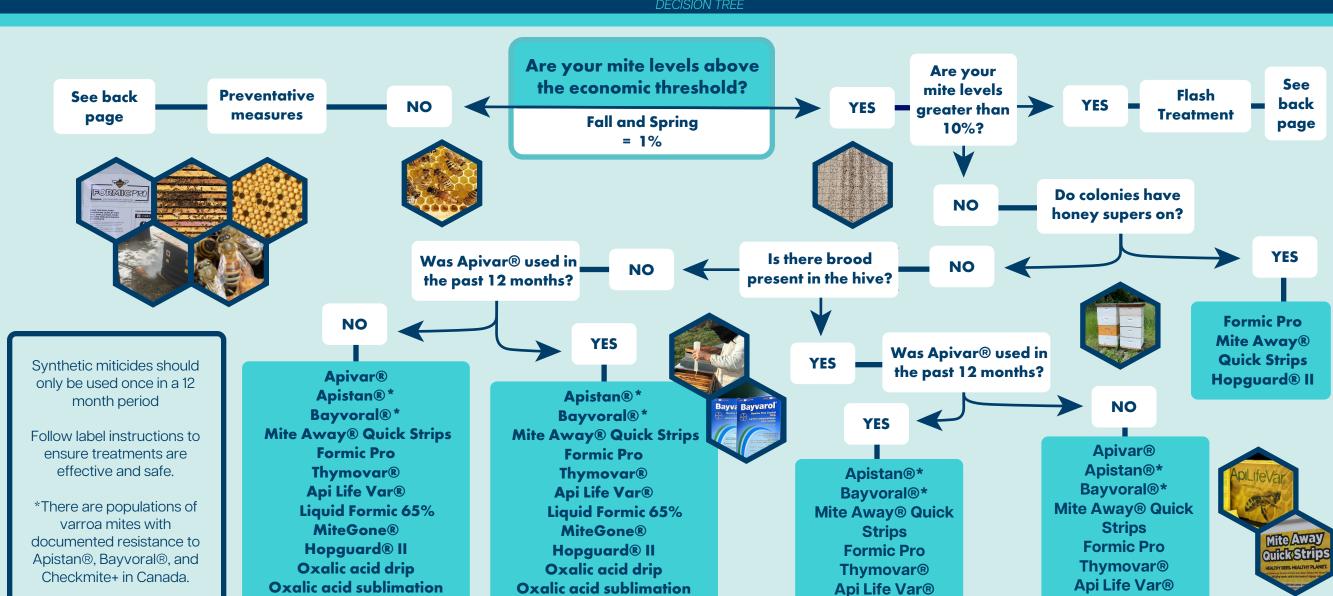


## **VARROA MITE MANAGEMENT**

**DECISION TREE** 





## What is a Flash Treatment?

A miticide that acts to kill varroa mites in a short period of time.

Slow release treatments, such as Apivar, are most effective when varroa infestation levels are below 10%. Above 10%, the efficacy is reduced and levels after treatment may still be above the economic threshold.

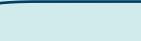
Therefore a FLASH treatment is recommended for colonies with infestation levels above 10%, instead of a slow release treatment.

> Examples: Liquid Formic 65% Oxalic acid drip Oxalic acid sublimation

Application of a flash treatment prior to using a slow release treatment (ie. Apivar®) will reduce the mite loads in a colony to a level at which the slow release miticide can work effectively. It is important to monitor BEFORE and AFTER treatment to justify any further miticide application.

## **PREVENTIVE MEASURES**

Do not solely rely on these preventative measures to control varroa mites. Incorporate these techniques into your Integrated Pest Management strategy









**MONITOR MONITOR MONITOR** 

**REQUEEN** 

**DRONE TRAPPING** 

**BROOD** INTERRUPTION **SCREENED BOTTOM BOARDS** 



monitored for varroa mites in the Spring and Fall. Sampling colonies 2-3 times each season will show you the success of your management strategy as well as inform appropriate actions that

need to be taken.

Colonies should be



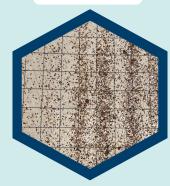
Replace your aueen with one of mite resistant and/or hygienic stock.



There is evidence that varroa mites prefer drone brood as they can reproduce more effectively. Frames of drone brood comb can be placed in the hive and removed before the brood emerges. TIMING IS **FVFRYTHING. If the drone** brood is not removed at the proper time, you risk breeding mites.



Caging the gueen for a period to halt brood production will inhibit mite reproduction. However, it may negatively impact colony strength and survival if used in the Fall.



Mites will fall off of bees as a result of movement and grooming. Using a screened bottom board causes the mites to fall onto the ground, reducing the chance of them re-entering the colony.













