



TREATING FOR VARROA MITES

Follow label instructions to ensure treatments are effective and safe. The information on a pesticide label ALWAYS takes precedence over other information!

Wear gloves & appropriate PPE when applying acaricides.
Consult each label for more information including proper disposal & first aid.



JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Oxalic Acid (OA) Vaporization*



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

**Synthetic Acaricides
Thymol**, Hop Acids**,
Formic Acids**, OA/Glycerin
Strips, OA Dribble**

MARCH/APRIL/MAY

**Synthetic Acaricides
Thymol**, Hop Acids**,
Formic Acids**, OA/Glycerin
Strips, OA Dribble**



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Oxalic Acid (OA) Vaporization*



JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

HopGuard 3, Formic Pro,
Mite Away Quick Strips* &
OA/Glycerin Strips**

*Subject to favourable weather conditions.

**Temperature sensitive products.
March/October may not apply
depending on weather conditions.

SYNTHETIC ACARICIDES

These are plastic strips/gel impregnated with an acaricide and left in the colony for multiple brood cycles. A resistance test may be carried out prior to using synthetic acaricides to determine whether they will provide effective control.



Product	Description	Application	Timing	Honey Flow?	Resistance
<u>Amiflex®</u>	Flash treatment gel Amitraz – 1.99% Group 19 insecticide	Load the syringe into the dosing gun. Set two wooden supports per brood chamber/brood box on the top bars of frames. Apply 2 doses (3ml each) onto wooden supports per brood chamber/brood box.	Can be used two times during the year: as two applications 14 days apart before honey flow, or as two separate applications (7-day each) at different times during the year.	DO NOT use during honey flow. Honey supers must be removed before treatment. No withdrawal period required.	<i>Varroa</i> populations may exhibit resistance to amitraz.
<u>Apivar 2.0®</u>	Plastic strip for the control of mites (varroaosis) on honey bees Amitraz – 3% Group 19 insecticide	Use 2 strips per brood chamber. Separate the double strip and hang each strip between two comb frames inside the brood area or the bee cluster with a minimum distance of 2 frames between strips.	Spring or fall if varroa mite levels have reached treatment thresholds. Leave strips inside the beehive for 6 to 10 weeks. Strips must be removed before a maximum of 70 days.	DO NOT use during honey flow. Honey supers must be removed before treatment. No withdrawal period required.	<i>Varroa</i> populations may exhibit resistance to amitraz.
<u>Apistan®</u>	Varroa control strips Kills Varroa, not the Honey Bee Fluvalinate-tau - 10.25% Group 3A insecticide	Use one strip for each 5 frames or less of bees, in each brood chamber. APISTAN STRIPS must be in contact with brood nest at all times.	Spring before the first honey flow, and in the fall after the last honey flow. Use when daytime high temperatures are at least 10° C. Remove strips after a 42-day treatment period.	Honey supers may be replaced AFTER the Apistan® strips have been removed.	<i>Varroa</i> populations may exhibit resistance to pyrethroids.
<u>Bayvarol®</u>	Intended for in-hive use for control of parasitic mites (<i>Varroa destructor</i>) on honey bees Flumethrin - 3.6 mg Group 3 insecticide	Developed colonies receive a maximum of four strips per brood chamber. Nucs and collected swarms receive two strips. Strips are suspended into the spaces between frames.	Best efficacy is to be expected when used in late summer after the honey harvest. Remove from the colonies after 42 days of treatment.	DO NOT use during honey flow. Honey supers must be removed before treatment.	<i>Varroa</i> populations may exhibit resistance to pyrethroids.

ORGANIC ACID ACARICIDES

These are organic options and resistance is unlikely as they are found naturally at low concentrations in honey.



MiteGone®

Product	Description	Application	Timing	Honey Flow?
	Acaricide: for treatment of honey bee colonies infested with Varroa and Tracheal Mites	Apply formic acid to MiteGone pads using the ready to use kits. Each pad will absorb 120-125 g of formic acid. Apply in the colonies at a rate of one MiteGone pad for every 5 frames of honey bees.	Spring and late summer. Pads may be left in the hives until spring. Use when outside daytime temperatures are 10° to 30°C.	Do not use when honey supers are in place to prevent contamination of marketable honey. 14 days withholding period required.
	Formic Acid – 65%	DO NOT UNWRAP THE PADS.		

Formic Pro®

For treatment of varroosis caused by Varroa destructor in honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) or tracheal mites.

Slow release generator

Formic Acid - 42.25%

14-day treatment: Lay two strips, flat and across the lower brood chamber, in the heart of the brood zone, with 5cm between strips and 10cm between the ends of the brood chamber and the outer edges of the strips.

20-day treatment: Lay one strip across the frames in the center of the lower brood chamber, in the heart of the brood rearing zone. On Day+10, remove and replace with a second single strip (weather dependent).

Outside daytime highs should be between 10 – 29.5°C on day of application.

Hot temperatures ($\geq 33^\circ\text{C}$ during the first 3 days) may lead to excessive bee, brood and queen loss.

Add a honey super with frames at time of application if necessary to provide adequate space for strong colonies to expand, or if a honey flow is expected. It is acceptable to have queen excluders in place.

Mite Away Quick Strips®

For treatment of honeybees infested with varroa mites or Tracheal mites

Formic Acid - 46.7%

Option 1: Lay two strips, flat and across the lower brood chamber, in the heart of the brood zone, with 5cm between strips and 10cm between the ends of the brood chamber and the outer edges of the strips for 7 days.

Option 2: Apply one strip every 2 to 6 weeks throughout the beekeeping season.

Outside daytime highs should be between 10 - 29.5°C on day of application.

Hot temperatures ($\geq 30^\circ\text{C}$ during the first 3 days) may lead to excessive bee, brood and queen loss.

Add a honey super with frames at time of application if necessary.

It is acceptable to have queen excluders in place.

Formic Acid 65%®

For treatment of honey bee colonies infested with varroa or tracheal mites

Formic Acid – 65%

Option 1 (fast release): Apply Formic Acid 65% onto an absorbent material placed on the bottom board or the hive top bars, at rates of 30-40 mL per double colony, or 15-20 mL per single colony. The treatment is to be repeated up to 6x at 1 to 10-day intervals.

Option 2 (slow release): Place a pad that can hold 250 mL of formic acid inside a pin-pricked resealable plastic bag. Add the acid and let it absorb. Seal this bag inside a second, unperforated bag, set it on the hive's top bars, and leave for 21–30 days.

Outside daytime highs should be between 10 - 30°C on day of application.

When using the slow release method, for temperature highs below 15°C, cut a single slit across the centre of the perforated plastic vegetable storage bag. Do not cut a slit if temperature highs are above 15°C.

Do not use when honey supers are in place to prevent contamination of marketable honey.

14 days withholding period required.

ORGANIC ACID ACARICIDES

These are organic options and resistance is unlikely as they are found naturally at low concentrations in honey.



VarroaSan®

Product	Description	Application	Timing	Honey Flow?										
	Sustained-release fiber strip for control of varroa mites on honey bees	Take the appropriate number of strips from the pack, fold in half and hang each strip over one comb frame inside the brood area or the bee cluster. Leave the strips from 42 days to 56 days and then remove.	Hang VarroaSan® strips in the hives in spring, summer and/or fall if varroa mite infestations have reached treatment threshold.	Permitted with honey supers on.										
	Oxalic Acid Dihydrate - 18.42%	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Frames of bees</td> <td>0-2.5</td> <td>3-5</td> <td>6-7.5</td> <td>8-10</td> </tr> <tr> <td># of strips</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>	Frames of bees	0-2.5	3-5	6-7.5	8-10	# of strips	1	2	3	4		
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Oxalic Acid Dihydrate®

Varroa Mite Control Product

Oxalic Acid Dihydrate - 99.65%

SOLUTION METHOD (DRIBBLE):
Dissolve 35 g of Oxalic Acid Dihydrate in 1 litre of 1:1 sugar:water (weight:volume). Smoke bees down from top bars. With a syringe or an applicator, trickle 5 mL of this solution directly onto the bees in each occupied bee space in each brood box. The maximum dose is 50 mL per colony whether bees are in nucs, single, or multiple brood chambers. Repeat applications can be made up to 6x at 4-day intervals.

VAPORIZER METHOD:
Apply only to outdoor colonies with a restricted lower hive entrance. Seal all upper hive entrances and cracks with tape to avoid escape of Oxalic Acid vapor. Treat while hives are wrapped to ensure they are sealed. Smoke bees up from the bottom board. Place 2.0 g Oxalic Acid Dihydrate powder or tablets into vaporizer. Maximum temperature for OA is 190°C before it turns into Formic Acid. Follow the vaporizer manufacturer's for use. Insert the vaporizer apparatus through the bottom entrance. Apply heat until all Oxalic Acid has sublimated.

GLYCERIN STRIP METHOD:
Click [HERE](#) for detailed instructions on preparing and applying the glycerin strips.

Spring and Fall (no or minimal brood)

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Spring, Summer or Fall

Do not use when honey supers are in place.

Do not use when honey supers are in place.

Honey supers may be present.



HOP ACID AND THYMOL ACARICIDES

These are organic options and no varroa mite resistance has been reported for thymol or hop acid acaricides.

Product	Description	Application	Timing	Honey Flow?										
Hopguard® 3	For use in bee hives to control varroa mites (<i>Varroa destructor</i>) on honey bees. Hop Beta Acids - 4 g per strip	Strips must be applied as per the table below for the number of standard Langstroth: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Frames of bees</td> <td>≤ 5</td> <td>6-10</td> <td>11-15</td> <td>≥16</td> </tr> <tr> <td># of strips</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table> Folded strips must be opened & hung over one of the center brood frames near the middle of the comb with one-half of the strip on each side of the comb. If using a second strip, apply the strips in the brood chamber in the center of the cluster.	Frames of bees	≤ 5	6-10	11-15	≥16	# of strips	1	2	3	4	Treat up to twice a year: one or two applications when bee hive population is increasing in spring, and one or two applications when bee hive population is decreasing in late summer and fall. For optimal results, apply HopGuard® 3 when little to no brood is present in the hive. Remove strips from bee hives after 15 days. Do not use it more than 4 times per year.	Users must not harvest honey and wax from the brood chambers, only from the honey supers. Strips are only placed in the brood chamber (not in the honey super).
Frames of bees	≤ 5	6-10	11-15	≥16										
# of strips	1	2	3	4										
Thymovar®	For the control of varroa mites on bees. Thymol - 15 g per wafer	Apply 2 consecutive applications of Thymovar. Thymovar is applied at a rate of ½ wafer for nucleus hives, 1 wafer for single brood chamber hives, or 2 wafers for double brood chamber hives. Do not place wafer(s) directly over open or sealed brood. Wafer(s) should be placed at a distance of at least 4 cm from the brood.	Spring, before honey flow or in the late summer to early fall, after all surplus honey has been removed in the fall after the last honey flow. Thymovar wafers are left in the hive for a 3-4 week period. Apply when maximum daily temperatures are above 12°C and below 30°C.	Prior to treatment, remove all honey supers. Do not use it during honey flows. At higher concentrations, thymol residue may impart off-flavours to honey.										
Api Life VAR®	Acaricide for the suppression of varroa mites in honey bee colonies. Thymol - 8.0 g/tablet Eucalyptus oil-1.72 g/tablet Racemic camphor - 0.39 g/tablet l-menthol - 0.39 g/tablet	Break the tablet into 4 pieces. Place the pieces on top of the top bars near the corners of the brood box. After 7-10 days, remove the pieces & replace with a new tablet broken into 4 pieces. Repeat the procedure with a third tablet, 7-10 days later. Leave the last tablet in the hive for 12 days, then remove the tablet pieces.	Two treatments consisting of 3 tablets each may be made per year (max. 6 tablets/hive/year). Use when daytime highs are between 18° & 35°C.	Do not use when honey supers are in place. Remove tablets from hive at least 30 days prior to harvesting honey. At higher concentrations, thymol residues may impart off-flavours to honey.										

THIS INFORMATION IS COMPILED FROM THE LABELS OF THE SELECTED ACARICIDES AS SUBMITTED TO HEALTH CANADA AND IS CURRENT TO FEBRUARY 2026.

ALL PESTICIDE LABELS USED IN CANADA CAN BE SEARCHED AT [HTTPS://PR-RP.HC-SC.GC.CA](https://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca) OR AT THE PMRA PESTICIDE LABELS APP.



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