



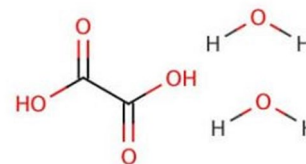
# Winter Mite Treatment

Three Rivers Beekeepers

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# Winter Mite Treatment – Oxalic Acid

- Organic acid that does not build up in wax
- Oxalic Acid Dihydrate - 95% to 100% pure
- Perfect time to treat your hives - broodless
- Ideal treatment window (late Nov - late Dec)
- Ideal temperatures (32 - 50 degrees)
- Always follow manufacturer instructions!





# Multiple Oxalic Acid Options

- Oxalic Dribble Method
  - Less risk for beekeeper – no vapor fumes
- Oxalic Vapor Method
  - Research suggests this method is less detrimental to adult bees and hive strength
  - Use respirator to avoid inhaling vapor fumes



# Oxalic Dribble Method- Equipment Needed

- Oxalic Acid Dihydrate 95-100% pure (Amazon)
- Electronic scale Oxalic acid (\$12 on Amazon)
- Syringe that can hold ideally 60ml
- Rubber gloves & safety goggles
- Respirator with cartridge and/or particulate filter



# Oxalic Dribble Method

- Weigh oxalic acid dihydrate and stir into 1:1 sugar syrup
  - 35g per 1 liter of warm 1:1 sugar syrup – 20 hives
- Fill syringe with oxalic acid solution
- Dribble solution between frames where bees are present
  - Max 5ml per seam of bees. Max 50ml per hive
- Dribble lukewarm solution directly on the bees



# Oxalic Vapor Method- Equipment Needed

- Oxalic Acid Dihydrate 95-100% pure (Amazon)
- Vaporizer (Amazon, MannLake, ...)
- Battery to power vaporizer
- Rubber gloves & safety goggles
- Respirator with cartridge and/or particulate filter





# Oxalic Vapor Method



- Solid bottom boards or close off screened bottom boards
- Per instructions, add amount of Oxalic acid to vaporizer (mine is 2g)
- Insert vaporizer through bottom entrance of hive
- Seal entrance around vaporizer
- Close off any upper entrance
- Use respirator to avoid inhaling vapor
- Attach vaporizer to battery; (mine is 5 minutes). All Oxalic acid should be turned into a gas
- Disconnect vaporizer from battery and let cool (mine is 2 minutes)
- Remove vaporizer from hive, but keep hive sealed for 10 additional minutes



# References for More Information

- Honey Bee Health Coalition video:
  - Search YouTube for “honey bee health oxalic acid”
  - Walks through process for both dribble & vapor
- Bee Culture article:
  - <https://www.beeculture.com/using-oxalic-acid/>
- American Bee Journal article:
  - November 2020 edition – “It’s Time for the OA Drench! Here’s how”



Winter is coming...

AND so is Spring

