

Killing varroa mites with oxalic acid: dribble method

Free resource. [Contributions welcome](http://tiny.cc/bee_help) (http://tiny.cc/bee_help)



- Best source of oxalic acid is wood bleach found at True Value and similar stores. Needs to be 95% + pure.
- Use only soft water or rain water. If in making solution white substance forms, make again with distilled, deionized or rain water.

Treatment timing

Apply oxalic acid when little or no brood is present but before it is crazy cold outside. Aug – Nov. Find the best balance between no brood and not too cold.

Prepare solution

OA: It's very acidic. Wear nitril gloves. Do not breathe fumes. Wear mask with organic acid filter.

1. Place 600 ml of hot water into glass or stainless container.
2. Add 35 grams of oxalic dehydrate crystals (wood bleach) into hot water. Stir ONLY.
3. When crystals dissolve, add 600 grams white granulated sugar. Stir until dissolved.

Refrigerate or apply.

Application. [Good demo vid](#) addresses winter application, but overall useful.

1. Dip syringe end in syrup and draw 50ml into plunger. 5 ml per fame gap x 10 frames = 50 ml.
2. Smoke bees down between frames. Getting solution ON bees is only way this treatment works.
3. Start at end farthest from you and smoothly draw syringe closer to evenly distribute dribble on as many bees as possible delivering 5 ml (1 teaspoon) syrup between frames to wet bees.
4. Repeat between all frames with bees between frames.
5. After each bee-filled gap gets 5 ml of solution, you're done.

Practice dribbling

Mix up some 1 pt water to 1 lb sugar for a trial run to get the hand of how hard to squeeze to smoothly wet as many bees as you can vs missing many bees.

Syringe Resource

Monoject 60 mL regular tip. Just slide on short plastic tube “nose” for easier dribbling.

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Off Ankeny 830 to 5p m-f