

BIOSECURITY MEASURES IN BEEKEEPING | VARROOSIS

How to Use Organic Anti-Varroa Treatments

Assessment of varroa infestation level during the beekeeping season | Alcohol washing

In sustainable beekeeping, it is essential to regularly monitor the level of Varroa mite infestation in your colonies. Various methods are available, so choose the one that best suits your beekeeping needs.

Here, we demonstrate alcohol washing, using a washing device. This method is simple, effective, and can be performed directly in the apiary.



step 1

Take a bee sample of approximately 75 ml using a 100 ml jar. There are various methods to do this, but we prefer to scrape the bees into the jar. Be careful not to include the queen in the sample.



step 2

Take a bee sample of approximately 75 ml. We prefer to shake the bees into a bowl and use a 100 ml jar. Be careful not to include the queen in the sample.



step 3

There are many washing devices available on the market. It is important to have a chamber where you can wash the bees with alcohol and a sieve to separate the mites from the bees.



step 4

Pour alcohol up to the fill line, add the bees, close the lid, and ensure all bees are covered with alcohol.



step 5

Make circular movements with your wrist for 20 seconds. Then, let the container rest for 30 seconds to allow the mites to settle.



step 6

Lift the jar to a comfortable position and count the number of mites in the outer container.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{Mites} \\
 \hline
 \text{No of bees} \quad \times 100 \\
 18 \\
 \hline
 38,65\text{g} \times 8 = 309 \\
 \hline
 = 6 \text{ mites}/100 \text{ bees}
 \end{array}$$

step 7

Calculate the number of mites per 100 bees. Determine the threshold for your local area and decide if your colonies need treatment.



step 8

And yes, be careful not to wash the queen!

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