

# Sample Varroa Plans

There are many different ways to keep mites in check, but we like to offer sample mite management plans each year for beekeepers that get overwhelmed by so many different options. This year, we have plans for beekeepers in both northern and southern regions. We can't guarantee that these plans will perfectly solve your varroa problems, but they should be pretty trustworthy because they were created by a veterinarian, a Ph.D. in varroa biology, and two Master Beekeepers with decades of beekeeping experience in different parts of the country.

## General Principles:

- Monitor for mites using **alcohol wash** or **sugar shake**.
- Keep records of your mite data.
- Assess levels throughout the season.
- Treat whenever mite levels are above 2% infestation.
- Have miticide on hand before you need it.
- ***Newly purchased bees may have been treated, and require less treatment their first summer.***



*A half cup of bees is roughly 300 bees.*

## Plan for Overwintered Colonies in Northern Regions

### President's Day (February 20):

- Install **Apivar** (1 strip per 5 frames of bees; 4 strips total for most hives). This requires 8 weeks for the treatment, plus at least 2 weeks for the waiting period after you pull the strips out before adding supers by May 1st. You can watch our video on Apivar [here](#).

### Tax Day (April 15):

- Pull out **Apivar** strips

### Mother's Day (May 14):

- Test mite levels in all hives OR 10-30% of hives in each apiary. If any hive yields more than 2 mites per 100 bees, treat the entire yard. Treatment at this time of year will likely be two strips of **Formic Pro** for 14 days (since it is fine to use when honey supers are on the hive) as long as temps are between 50 and 85°F. **HopGuard 3** or a single strip of **Formic Pro** can also be used with supers in place, but won't kill reproducing mites in the brood. You can watch our video on HopGuard 3 [here](#).



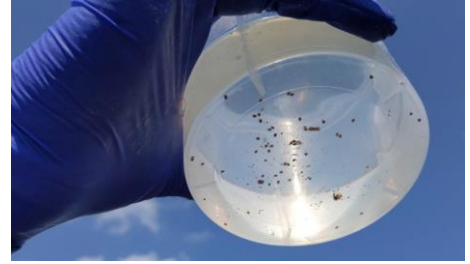
*Apivar strips placed between brood frames.*

### Flag Day (June 14):

- Repeat the Mother's Day plan again, treating if needed.

## Independence Day (July 4):

- Repeat the Mother's Day plan if you have not treated yet. If treatment is required now, monitor temperatures in your area carefully to find a safe stretch of time to treat with **Formic Pro** (50 - 85°F) OR **HopGuard 3** (52 - 92°F). Even if you've ignored your mites up to this point in the year, checking on mites around Independence Day is a critical chance to prevent a mite catastrophe come fall/winter.



*Mites left over after an alcohol wash.*

## First week of August:

- Repeat Mother's Day plan again.

## Labor Day (September 4):

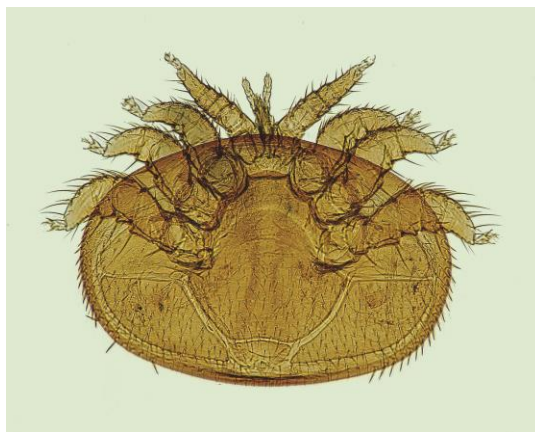
- Harvest the summer honey crop. Check mite levels. Treat with either **Formic Pro** (formic acid) or ApiLife Var/**Apiguard** (thymol-based) if mite levels are above 2 mites per 100 bees. If you don't have time to check mite levels, default to treating every hive.

## Once, between Thanksgiving & Christmas:

- Treat every colony with either vaporized or dribbled **oxalic acid**, to clean up lingering mites and knock levels as low as possible for next spring.



*Treating with two strips of Formic Pro.*



*A closeup of the Varroa Mite.*

## Final Thoughts

We hope that you have learned some valuable information from the sample plans above. The importance of a solid varroa monitoring/treatment plan cannot be understated. Should you have additional questions or concerns, please don't ever hesitate to contact us through our **Help Desk**, via email at [support@betterbee.com](mailto:support@betterbee.com), or via phone at 1-800-632-3379.