

## Bee Note 207: Oxalic Acid



May 28, 2007

### General

Oxalic acid is for the control of Varroa mites in honeybee colonies. Apply in late fall to early spring when there is little chance of brood.

It is assumed that the use of Oxalic Acid is part of an integrated approach to pest management that includes rigorous testing, a formic acid treatment program, and a year-round screened bottom board.

It is recommended that Oxalic Acid be applied once per year, on or around December 1.

## Solution/Drip Method

1. With a syringe applicator, trickle 5 ml Oxalic Acid solution directly onto bees in each occupied bee space (between the frames where bees are clustered).
2. The maximum dose is 50 ml per colony whether bees are in nucs, single box, or multiple brood chambers

## Preparing Oxalic Acid Solution

1. Mix Oxalic Acid Dihydrate powder into very hot water until completely dissolved.
2. Mix in dry sugar until completely dissolved.
3. Use fresh. Discard what you do not use in one day. Discard down a regular household drain.

### Formulations

Treats # Colonies	Oxalic Acid (gm/tsp)	Very Hot Water (gm/ml)	Granulated Sugar (gm/ml)	Total Solution (ml)
20	35gm / 7 tsp	620 gm or ml	620 gm / 530 ml	1,000 ml
60	100 gm / 20 tsp	1750 gm or ml	1750 gm / 1520 ml	3,000 ml
300	500 gm / 100 tsp	8,800 gm or ml	8,800 gm / 1,580 ml	14,800 ml

### Note: Oxalic Acid may be vapourized/fumigated

1. Seal all upper hive entrances and cracks with tape to avoid escape of oxalic acid vapour.
2. Smoke bees up from the bottom board by placing 2.0gm Oxalic Acid Dihydrate powder into an approved vapourizer until all acid has been sublimated.

*Honeybee Centre (HBC) notes are written for beekeepers in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley of British Columbia, Canada. Although these notes apply to virtually all beekeepers in North America, different climates and government regulations may require slightly different honeybee management practices.*