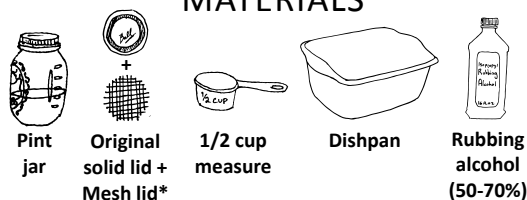


SAMPLE REGULARLY (EVERY MONTH!)

Alcohol wash

The most accurate way to determine
Varroa levels in your hives

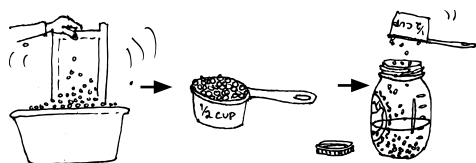
MATERIALS



*1/8 inch hardware cloth, cut to match solid lid

10 STEPS

- 1) Pour alcohol into jar. Set materials in easy reach
- 2) Find a frame of **open brood**
Check that the queen is not on frame!
- 3) **Shake adult bees from frame into dishpan**
Scoop 1/2 cup (~300) bees and pour into jar



- 4) Shake remaining bees from bin into colony
- 5) Seal solid lid on jar and **shake for 1-2 min**
- 6) Let jar sit for 1-2 minutes
- 7) Replace solid lid with mesh lid
- 8) **Shake jar contents into empty dishpan**
- 9) **Count the total # mites.**
If there are >3, it is time to apply a chemical treatment (see inside of brochure)

- 10) Discard bees and mites
Wash all materials; can reuse alcohol

→ email bees@mass.gov for a free kit!

KNOW YOUR PEST

Meet the *Varroa* mite...

The Varroa Mite, *Varroa destructor*, is an external parasite that feeds on honey bee adults and brood. **They weaken bees and transmit viruses.**



Unmonitored and unmanaged infestations of Varroa mites will result in colony death.

COMMON SIGNS OF MITE DAMAGE:



- Open or damaged pupal cells
- Chewed-down pupae
- Emerging adult bees with deformed or missing wings

Version 4, May 2020. Publication produced by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), University of Massachusetts, and Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (MDACF), funded by the Northeastern IPM Center through grant #2014-70006-22484 from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Crop Protection and Pest Management, Regional Coordination Program, and reprinted with permission from the Northeastern IPM Center.

Drawings by Hannah Whitehead. Brood photo by Kim Skyrn. Other images from USDA Office of Communication in Research Science <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2014/05/13/helping-honey-bees-health>



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for *Varroa* mites



IPM is a decades-old farm strategy for mitigating pests while minimizing chemical use. Experts now recommend IPM for *Varroa*.

Rather than relying on a "silver bullet", good IPM incorporates **multiple practices** throughout the season, based on **pest levels** and **pest biology**.

IPM PRINCIPLES:

- **KNOW YOUR PEST**
- **PREVENT** pest build up using non-chemical practices
- **SAMPLE REGULARLY** to track pest population levels
- **INTERVENE** with pesticides when populations reach damaging thresholds (*vary products to prevent pest resistance*)



This pamphlet will help you to use IPM principles to manage Varroa mites.

PREVENT PEST BUILD UP USING NON-CHEMICAL PRACTICES

SPRING AND SUMMER

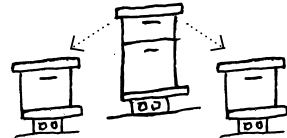
Re-Queen

Select mite resistant stock when available



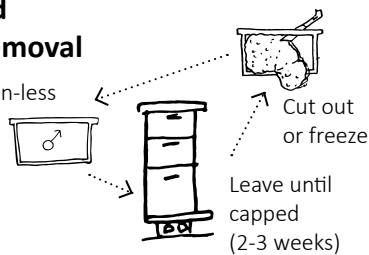
Brood Interruption

Split hive or allow to swarm (capture swarm!)



Drone Brood Trapping/Removal

Insert foundation-less or drone frame

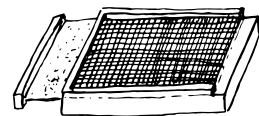


Leave until capped (2-3 weeks)

ALL YEAR

Screened Bottom Board

Check mite drop for effectiveness



CHEMICAL TYPES:

Synthetic

PROS: Targeted toxicity
CONS: Last longer in the environment

Organic

PROS: Degrade quickly
CONS: Broad-spectrum toxicity (more harmful to the beekeeper!)

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE):



Chemical-resistant gloves






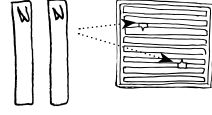



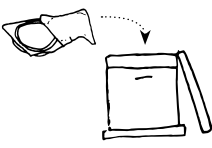



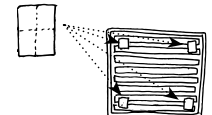



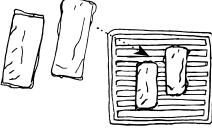








Safety goggles



Respirator with an organic particulate filter

INTERVENE W/ PESTICIDES WHEN PESTS EXCEED THRESHOLDS (>3 MITES/SAMPLE!)

TABLE OF MITICIDE OPTIONS for full product labels, visit <http://www.kellysolutions.com/MA/pesticideindex.htm>

	Name Active Ingredient [mode of action]	Season [temp]  = less effective when brood is present	Honey super safe?	Treatment Duration	Application Type For instructional videos: honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa	Personal Protective Equipment
Synthetic	Apivar® amitraz [contact]	Pop. Increase Pop. Decrease [Not Temp Dependent]	NO 	6-8 weeks  wait 2 weeks to add honey supers	PLASTIC STRIP 	 <i>Miticides can harm people too!! Protect yourself with proper PPE</i>
	ApiGuard® thymol [fumigant]	Pop. Increase Pop. Decrease [60-105° F]	NO 	4-6 weeks  Can add honey supers immediately after	GEL OR GEL TRAY 	
Organic: essential oil	Api Life Var® thymol, menthol, eucalyptus oil [fumigant]	Pop. Increase Pop. Decrease [64-95° F]	NO 	26-32 days  wait 1 month to add honey supers	FOAM WAFER 	
	MAQS®, Formic Pro® formic acid [fumigant]	***Kills mites in brood Pop. Increase Pop. Peak Pop. Decrease [50-85° F]	YES 	MAQS: 1-3 weeks Formic Pro: 2-3 weeks 	GEL STRIP 	 <i>Recommended (but not required)</i>
Organic: organic acid	Oxalic Acid, Api-Bioxal® oxalic acid dihydrate [contact, fumigant]	Pop. Increase Pop. Decrease [Not Temp Dependent] Dormant	NO 	Immediate (but may need to repeat) wait 2 weeks to add honey supers	POWDER, 3 options:    Spray (liquid) Dribble (liquid) Fumigation (vapor)	
	HopGuard II/III® potassium salt of hops beta acids [contact]	Pop. Increase Pop. Peak Pop. Decrease [50-85° F]	YES 	1 month 	CARDBOARD STRIP 