

# OAV

# Recommendations

Oxalic Acid Vaporization (OAV) is a highly effective method for killing phoretic mites while inflicting little or no damage to honey bees. Multiple OAV treatments appear to have no effect on honey bees, nor the brood.

## Broodless OAV

During periods when hives are in a broodless state are ideal times for using OAV as a cleanup treatment for varroa mites. One or two treatments, several days apart, bring mite levels down to near zero. Ideally OAV should be done near the beginning of the broodless periods so mites cannot inflict more damage to the bees. *Oxalic acid vaporization is an ideal “cleanup” mite treatment for going into winter.*

If hives have some brood present, or mite levels are high, more rounds of treatments may be necessary.

## Nuc Production OAV

Nuc production presents another ideal window for using OAV for controlling varroa mites. Day 19 after the ripe queen cells have been installed into a queenless nuc or split presents a small window where there is no sealed brood. The old brood from the parent hive has all hatched at this time and the brood from the new queen has not yet been sealed. Oxalic acid vaporization must take place on Day 19 to be most effective. If it is not possible to treat on Day 19, several treatments spanning Day 19 are also a possibility. Treatments should be at most 3 days apart.

## Brood Present OAV

OAV does not remove or affect varroa mites that are on the sealed brood. In order for OAV to be effective in reducing mite numbers when brood is present 5 or more treatments must be done at 3 day intervals. Mite numbers must be monitored to ensure that the treatments have reduced mite levels to acceptable levels.

*OAV is a highly effective tool for managing mites in hives that have elevated mite levels or that are beginning to crash. Treating these hives every 3 days arrests the decline in the hives and brings varroa mite levels down to acceptable levels. At least 5 to 7 treatments will probably be required. Seeing as varroa mites can be vectors for viruses, the bees may well still have high levels of viruses for some time, even if mite levels have been reduced.*