

Varroa treatment options Revised 210502 eo

Note: the comments below are not a substitute for reading product inserts or labels and doing your research.

There are constantly changes in formulations & applications and products offered may differ substantially from previous versions.

Only treat as indicated when mite thresholds are exceeded.

Prices are estimates and number of doses depends on your mite counts before, during and after treatment.

These are not definitive instructions: you must read latest version product inserts & labels!

Medication	Active Ingredient	Approved organic?	Application method	Min/Max Temp	Treatment duration	Honey supers must be removed during treatment	Max. # doses	Resistance Development	Cost per set of treatments	Additional target	Notes
Oxalic Acid	oxalic acid (organic acid)	Yes	Three approved treatment methods: Solution (dribble or drench) Vaporizing (sublimation) Spraying (package bees)	Any temp; might not penetrate winter cluster.	minutes	No	Unknown	Unlikely	Cheapest for multiple hives after startup costs		Quick release method. Approved for treating packaged bees & as organic. Naturally occurs in honey.
Api Life VAR	thymol (essential oil)	Yes	Break tablet into 4 pieces and place in brood corners.	64 to 95°F. Less effective 54°F.	~30 days total	Yes, but can be installed after treatment if not harvested for 30	Apply 1 tablet 3 times every 7-10 days, max. 2	Unlikely	\$8/dose/hive, 3 doses/hive ~ \$24		May impart off-flavor to honey. Can be frozen.
Apiguard	thymol, eucalyptol, menthol, camphor	Yes	Gel in refillable trays. 25g & 50g doses. Shim to ensure bee access to gel on tops of frames.	Daytime averages > 60°F; different dose at ≥77°F. Works well up to 104°F	6 weeks total	Yes, but can be installed right after gel removed.	Up to 4 consecutive 25g doses	Unlikely	\$5/dose for 1 or 2 deeps	Tracheal mite	May decrease egg laying & increase brood removal. Feeding improves
MAQS	formic acid (organic acid)	Yes	Pads on top of brood frames; front entrance should be fully open.	Daytime averages 50 to 85°F but check the specific product.	full dose - 7 days; 2 half doses - 21 days	No	1 month between applications	Unlikely	\$6/dose for 1 or 2 deeps		Naturally occurs in honey. Approved organic. Check for supersedure in a
Formic Pro (Formic Acid)	formic acid (organic acid)	Yes	Pads on top of brood frames; front entrance should be fully open	Daytime temperatures must be about 50 to 79°F but check the specific product.	full dose - 14 days; 2 half doses - 20 days	No	1 month between applications	Unlikely	\$8/dose for 1 or 2 deeps	Tracheal mite	Naturally occurs in honey. Approved organic. Check for supersedure in a
HopGuard	hop beta acids botanical	Yes?	2 strips per 10 frames brood.	> 50°F	14 days	No	4 times per year	Less likely	\$6/dose/deep		Messy. Approved for treating packaged
Apistan Zoecon	fluvalinate synthetic pyrethroid	No	2 strips per 10 frames brood.	> 50°F	Min. 42 days; remove by 56 days	Yes but supers can be installed after strips removed	1 dose/yr.	More likely	\$7/dose/deep		Move strips as necessary to keep them centered in broodnest. Wax
Apivar	amitraz synthetic	No	2 strips per 10 frames brood.	when bees moving	Min. 42 days; remove by 56 days	Yes until 2 weeks after strips removed	1 dose/yr.	More likely	\$7/dose/deep.		Move strips as necessary to keep them centered in broodnest.
CheckMite+	coumaphos synthetic organothiophosphate	No	1 strip per 5 frames	any time	Min. 42 days; remove by 45 days	Yes until 2 weeks after strips removed	2 doses/yr maximum	More likely	\$8.50 /deep	Small Hive Beetle	Move strips as necessary to keep them centered in broodnest.

Respirator recommended for volatile treatments

Disposable gloves & appropriate PPE recommended for all treatments

Costs are estimated

If supers are not removed during a "remove-supers" treatment, you might consider feeding that honey back to the bees.