

# Varroa Mite Treatment Guide

## ORGANIC TREATMENTS ONLY

A quick-reference guide for beekeepers

### OXALIC ACID (OA)

#### Vaporization — Api-Bioxal / EZ-OX

- Temperature: Works down to 40°F — no upper limit
- Broodless colony: 1 treatment and you're done
- With brood present: 3 treatments, 5–7 days apart
- ■ Honey supers **CAN stay on** — EPA authorized, no detectable residue in honey
- ■■ Half-face respirator with acid gas cartridges — not optional

#### Dribble — Api-Bioxal / EZ-OX

- Broodless colonies only — OA cannot penetrate wax cappings
- One application per year per the label — do not repeat
- ■ Honey supers **CAN stay on**

#### Extended-Release Strips — Varroxsan

- No temperature restrictions — registered for year-round use
- Leave strips in 42–56 days (fold in half, drape over frame top bars)
- ■ Honey supers **CAN stay on** — studies confirm no increase in OA residue in honey

*Best applied outside of peak nectar flow when possible, but permitted when needed*

### FORMIC PRO

- Temperature window: 50°F – 85°F ← Daytime highs. Hard limits, no exceptions
- ■■ Above 85°F risks excessive brood mortality and queen loss — watch the forecast
- ■ **The ONLY organic treatment that kills mites under capped brood**
- ■ Honey supers **CAN stay on** — safe for honey intended for human consumption
- 14-day option: 2 strips placed simultaneously, remove after 14 days
- 20-day option: 1 strip for 10 days, remove and replace with a second strip for 10 more days
- Fully open the hive entrance for the entire treatment — ventilation is critical



Website

Arkansas Honeyworks

arkansashoneyworks.com

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# Quick Reference & Seasonal Guide

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## AFIGUARD (Thymol)

- Temperature window: 60°F – 105°F — needs warmth to vaporize and work properly
- Below 60°F bees are less active and gel distribution drops significantly
- Two 50g treatments, 14 days apart — leave second tray in for up to 4 weeks
- **■ Honey supers MUST come off — thymol taints honey flavor**

*Best applied late summer or early fall, after the honey harvest*

## QUICK REFERENCE

Treatment	Min Temp	Max Temp	Honey Supers On?
OA Vapor	40°F	None	■ Yes
OA Dribble	40°F	None	■ Yes
Varroxsan Strips	None	None	■ Yes
Formic Pro	50°F	85°F	■ Yes
Apiguard	60°F	105°F	■ No

### Always Test Before You Treat



Alcohol wash or sugar roll — if mite levels reach 2–3% or higher, treat immediately. High mite loads going into winter is the most common way new beekeepers lose a colony. Test monthly throughout the active season.



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# When to Treat Through the Year

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<b>1</b>	<b>Winter / Early Spring</b>	Cold and broodless — the ideal window. Bees are clustered, no capped brood to shelter mites.	<b>OA Vapor or Dribble</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Spring Buildup</b>	Brood present, colony expanding rapidly. Mite population climbs fast — monitor closely.	<b>Varroxsan Strips or Formic Pro</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Summer</b>	Supers on. Temps often too high for Formic Pro. Prime mite reproduction season — stay vigilant.	<b>Varroxsan Strips Formic Pro if daytime highs stay under 85°F</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Late Summer / Fall</b>	Supers off after harvest. Still warm. Critical window — treat before winter bees are raised.	<b>Apiguard or Formic Pro Treat before winter bees hatch (Aug–Sep)</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Fall → Winter</b>	Colony shrinking, last chance before cluster. Broodless period = ideal OA knockdown.	<b>OA Vapor or Dribble</b>

## Rotate Your Treatments

Don't use the same treatment every cycle. Rotating between oxalic acid, formic acid, and thymol helps prevent resistance building in your mite population. No known oxalic acid resistance has been reported to date.



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