

Comparing Efficacy of Varroa Control Methods

Varroa mites are harmful to honey bees. Beekeepers use various methods to control varroa. Some of these are shown below. All can kill varroa. But how do they compare in efficacy, including the proportion killed and duration of control?

LASI research has shown that 2.25g oxalic acid (OA) applied in winter via sublimation to a broodless hive, in which all varroa are phoretic on adult bees and so can be contacted by OA, kills 97.6%. By contrast, trapping varroa in drone brood in spring for one month kills 46%. As 97.6% is roughly double 46% the first method appears twice as effective. However, if we compare surviving proportions, 2.6% v. 54%, the first method seems more than twice as effective.