

NY Bee Wellness Workshops * MITE Checks

Taking a sample:

- 1) take a brood or pollen frame full of bees (check for queen!) and shake into a box or bucket
- 2) use ½ cup measure to scoop up bees (~300)
- 3) Check monthly starting in April; in August start checking at least every 3 weeks, this is when mite populations really start to take off

For Powdered Sugar Roll:

- 1) Pour bees into a mason jar that has a mesh cap (#8 screening)
- 2) Add 2 tablespoons of confectioners' sugar
- 3) Roll about at least 30 seconds
- 4) let sit at least 1 minute, roll for 30 seconds more
- 5) shake out sugar/mites onto white paper plate or other surface
- 6) repeat until you see bee legs
- 7) spray with water to dissolve sugar to count mites
- 8) release bees

Alcohol wash (or windshield washer fluid):

- 1) Add 4 oz to jar with bees, or enough to cover the bees
- 2) cover and shake vigorously for several minutes
- 3) filter with screen, coffee filters, plastic varroa wash jar

What the numbers mean:

Take the number of mites collected, divide by 3, times 2 = % mite infestation

$\#mites/3 \times 2 = \% \text{ mite infestation}$

<2% no treatment, 3+ watch and then treat

Brood Examination (Drone):

Uncap ~100 cells in purple eye stage

Assess general mite load to get % (mites per 100 pupae)

Sticky Boards for 3 days; divide by 3 for a 1 day average

Treatment threshold:

12 mites in Spring

23 mites in Fall