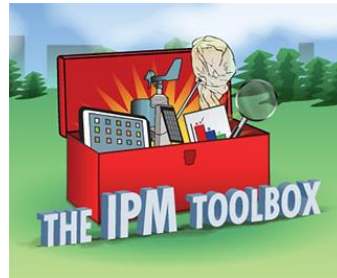




## Varroa Mite IPM Series

### Part 4: Varroa Mite IPM: Creating Your Own IPM Plan



<https://neipmc.org/go/vm2020>

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**Northeastern IPM Center**  
We promote and fund integrated pest management for environmental, human health, and economic benefits.

Signature Programs ▸ Got Pests? ▸ Need Funding? ▸

HOME / IPM IN ACTION / The IPM Toolbox Webinars / Varroa Mite IPM: Four-Part Series for a Healthy Hive in 2020

## Varroa Mite IPM: Four-Part Series for a Healthy Hive in 2020

Monday, March 9 – Part 1: Varroa mite biology and life history - [Recording]  
Monday, March 23 – Part 2: Varroa mite IPM and sampling - [Recording]  
Monday, April 6 – Part 3: Varroa mite management tools - [Recording]  
Monday, April 20, 1:00-2:30 p.m. – Part 4: Varroa Mite IPM: Creating your own IPM plan – *Join Jen and Kim as they discuss how to create an IPM plan and interactively engage participants to take time/space to create their own plan during the workshop.*

Kim Skyrn, Apiary Program Coordinator/Apiarist, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
Jen Lund, Apiarist, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

### Description

They're back by popular demand! Kim and Jen dive deeper into managing the most detrimental pest affecting honey bees, varroa mites (*Varroa destructor*). Join them in this multiple part webinar series where they will discuss the varroa mite biology and life history, available and effective mite management tools, how to create a dynamic varroa mite IPM plan, and a demonstration on the steps involved in performing an alcohol wash in the field including tips to make sure you get an accurate count. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and get real live support needed to jump start your thinking and planning for mite management this season. These presentations will be tailored to current and future beekeepers, but others with interest in honey bee health are also encouraged to attend! Join Kim and Jen and let's FIGHT THE MITE!

### About the Presenters


Dr. Kim Skyrn has been the Chief Apiary Inspector and Apiary Program Coordinator at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources since August 2015. Prior to this appointment, Kim was a Post Doctoral Researcher at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst working with bumble bees and cranberry pollination. Kim has been working with native and managed bees, beekeepers, and farmers for the past 12 years through outreach education, research, and extension type projects. Kim is truly passionate about apiculture and ensuring the viability and sustainability of bee populations!


Jennifer Lund has a Master's degree in Entomology from the University of Maine and has over 20 years of entomological experience. Before becoming the Maine State Apiarist in 2016, Jen was a research technician in the entomology department at the University of Maine in Orono (UMO). While at UMO, Jen worked on many honey bee projects including a national colony collapse disorder study, honey bee colony health comparisons of top bar and Langstroth hives, integrated varroa mite control effectiveness, the role of honey bees as vectors of blueberry disease, sub-lethal effects on colonies to low-level pesticide exposure, and health of migratory hives arriving in the State of Maine for blueberry pollination. Jen is passionate about honey bee health and helping beekeepers succeed. Aside from managing the honey bee inspection program and helping Maine beekeepers protect their hives, Jennifer also has several of her own hives that she maintains on her farm in Maine.

### To Register


[https://cornell.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_FwNFRD6pRgWgHArjghWVvg](https://cornell.zoom.us/join/register/WN_FwNFRD6pRgWgHArjghWVvg)

Download the Varroa Mite IPM Plan templates (DOCX format).







Kim Skyrn, Apiary Program Coordinator/Apiarist, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources



Jen Lund, Apiarist, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry



Got an IPM question? Need to know the latest IPM information? The Northeastern IPM Center has the answers with our webinar series, "The IPM Toolbox."



Varroa Mite IPM Brochure This brochure introduces the varroa mite, provides steps to doing an alcohol mite wash, and lists IPM options for controlling varroa mites.

USDA Developed and managed by the Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center, located at Cornell University. This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award numbers 2018-70006-28882 and 2014-70006-22484. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Northeastern IPM Center is one of four Regional IPM Centers.

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# Webinar Details

✿ Welcome

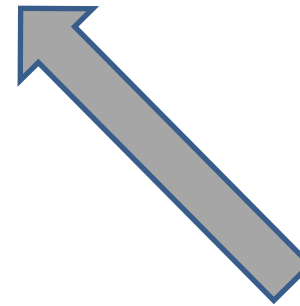
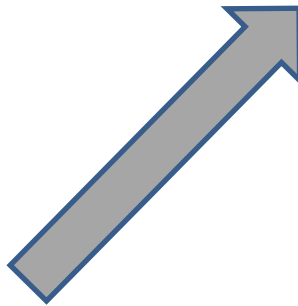
✿ A recording of this webinar will be available within a week at

✿ <http://www.neipmc.org/go/ipmtoolbox>

# We Welcome Your Questions

- ✿ Please submit a question **at any time** using the Q&A feature to your right at any time
- ✿ If you'd like to ask a question anonymously, please indicate that at the beginning of your query.

# Webinar Presenters



**Jennifer Lund,**

*Apiarist*

MDACF Apiary Program

207-287-7562

[jennifer.lund@maine.gov](mailto:jennifer.lund@maine.gov)

**Kim Skyrms, Ph.D.,**

*Chief Apiary Inspector*

MDAR Apiary Program

617-626-1801

[bees@mass.gov](mailto:bees@mass.gov)



# Some Questions For You



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# Outline

- 🐝 Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Tools Overview

- 🐝 IPM Plan Basics

- 🐝 Creating Your Own IPM Plan

- 🐝 IPM Plan Examples





# VARROA MITE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) TOOLS OVERVIEW



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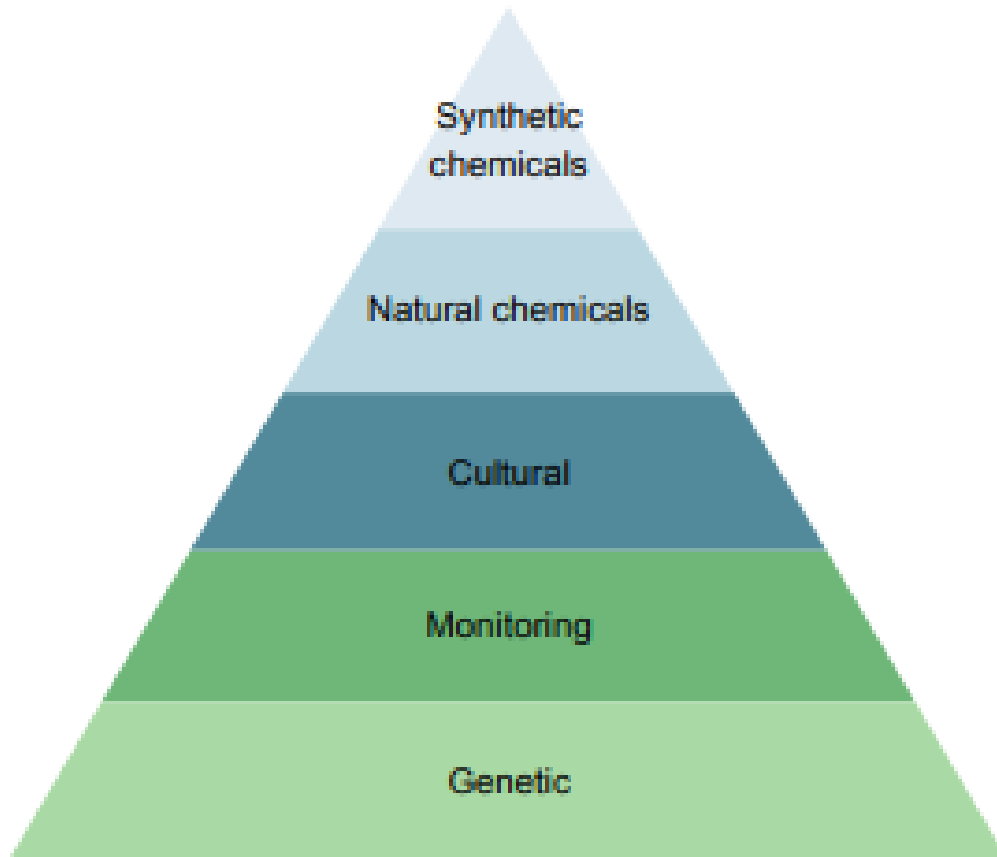
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# What Is Varroa Mite IPM?

Pyramid of IPM Practices





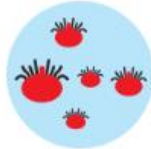
## TOOLS FOR VARROA MANAGEMENT



# FREE VARROA RESOURCES



Below you can access the  
Tools for Varroa Management  
Guide and Watch the  
Demonstration Videos



The Guide explains practical, effective methods to manage Varroa mites within your hives. The videos provide practical step-by-step demonstrations on monitoring and controlling varroa mites.

[DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE](#)



Access the Coalition's Varroa  
Management Decision Tool



This tool will walk you through the decisions you need to make to determine how best to manage varroa mites

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE TOOL](#)



Host an Evening Varroa Bee  
Club Program



The Honey Bee Health Coalition has developed an informative evening program for your bee club or association. You can either use the prepared presentation or play the recording to your club.

[DOWNLOAD THE PRESENTATION & RECORDING](#)

# Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Options for Varroa Mites

| NAME                           | ACTIVE INGREDIENT [CHEMICAL CLASS]            | MODE OF ACTION                      | APPLICATION MATERIAL | APPLICATION SEASON & TEMPERATURE GUIDELINES                           | TREATMENT DURATION         | KEEP HONEY SUPER ON? | NOTES   |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Apivar®                        | amitraz [amidine]                             | contact                             | plastic strip        | Spring, Fall  | 42-56 days                 | no                   | honey supers put on 14 days after strip removal                                 |
| <del>Api-Mite</del>            | tau-fluvalinate [pyrethroid]                  | contact                             | plastic strip        | Spring, Fall [ $>50^{\circ}\text{F}$ ]                                | 42-56 days                 | no                   | mite resistance shown; honey supers put on after strip removal                  |
| <del>CheckMite+®</del>         | coumaphos [organophosphate]                   | contact                             | plastic strip        | Spring, Summer, Fall  | 42-45 days                 | no                   | mite resistance shown; do not use for queen-producing colonies                  |
| Apiguard®                      | thymol  | fumigant                            | gel or gel tray      | Spring, Fall [ $60^{\circ}\text{F}$ to $105^{\circ}\text{F}$ ]        | 28-42 days                 | no                   | Restricted Entry Interval (REI) of 48hrs; honey supers put on after gel removal |
| Api Life Var®                  | thymol, menthol, eucalyptus oil               | fumigant                            | tablet               | Spring, Summer, Fall [ $64^{\circ}\text{F}$ to $95^{\circ}\text{F}$ ] | 26-32 days                 | no                   | honey supers put on 30 days after tablet removal                                |
| Mite-Away Quick Strips® (MAQS) | formic acid                                   | fumigant                            | gel strip            | Spring, Summer, Fall [ $50^{\circ}\text{F}$ to $85^{\circ}\text{F}$ ] | 7 days or 21 days          | yes                  | penetrates wax cappings; check queen vitality after treatment                   |
| Formic Pro®                    | formic acid                                   | fumigant                            | gel strip            | Spring, Summer, Fall [ $50^{\circ}\text{F}$ to $85^{\circ}\text{F}$ ] | 14 days or 20 days         | yes                  | penetrates wax cappings; check queen vitality after treatment                   |
| Oxalic Acid                    | oxalic acid dihydrate                         | contact, fumigant                   | vapor or liquid      | Spring, Fall  | varies by application type | no                   | most effective when brood-less  |
| HopGuard®II                    | potassium salt of hops beta acids             | contact                             | cardboard strip      | Spring, Summer, Fall  | 30 days                    | yes                  | most effective when brood-less  |
| Screen Bottom Board            | cultural, non-chemical options for management | varies depending on management type |                      | Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter  | all year                   | yes                  | check mite drop for effectiveness   |
| Drone Brood Trapping/Removal   |   |                                     |                      | Spring, Summer, Fall  | 14-20 days                 | yes                  | remove comb/open drone cells before emergence                                   |
| Brood Interruption             |   |                                     |                      | Spring, Summer  | 14-20 days                 | yes                  | split hive or allow to swarm; but capture swarm                                 |
| Re-Queen/Cage Queen            |   |                                     |                      | Spring, Summer  | 28 days                    | yes                  | select mite resistant stock when available                                      |

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# Questions





# VARROA MITE IPM PLAN BASICS



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# Fundamentals of a Varroa Mite



## IPM Plan

- 1) **Bee-a-Planner!** Determine **short/long-term goals** of your apiary
- 2) **Bee Practical!** **Schedule time** in your calendar for apiary management to coincide with **bee development**
- 3) **Bee-a-Keeper!** Monitor hives frequently to **determine mite levels** and compare with established thresholds
- 4) **Bee Prepared!** Incorporate **prevention (non-chemical)** tools and purchase **intervention (chemical)** tools & PPE in advance
- 5) **Bee Creative, but Safe!** Use **multiple tools safely** to achieve best control

# Varroa Mite Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan



Year \_\_\_\_\_ Apiary Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hive Type(s) \_\_\_\_\_

| Month                       | Colony Inspection Timeline<br>(i.e. time - type) | Colony Population<br>(i.e. stage) | Honey Flow<br>(i.e. super) | Mite Monitoring Timeline<br>(i.e. time - notes) | Non-Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. cultural, mechanical, genetic) | Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. miticides) |
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| November                    |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| December, January, February |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |

*Example*

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# Varroa Mite Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan



Year \_\_\_\_\_ Apiary Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hive Type(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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### Description



**Kim Skyrn**, Apiary Program Coordinator/Apiarist, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Download the **Varroa Mite IPM Plan template** (DOCX format).



Link to online form:

<https://neipmc.org/go/vm2020>

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# CREATING YOUR OWN VARROA MITE IPM PLAN



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# Varroa Mite Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan



Year \_\_\_\_\_ Apiary Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hive Type(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Steps to Creating an IPM Plan:

1. Make separate sheet for different hive types/apiaries
2. Fill in as much info as possible – leave room for notes
3. Account for your schedule – be realistic!
4. Plan for colony development
5. Share with fellow beekeepers to get suggestions
6. Create a notebook to store plans in accessible place
7. Post reminder in calendar about management needs
8. Purchase supplies in advance – multiple tools & PPE
9. Monitor mites PRE & POST treatment

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|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Start with the easy stuff!  |  |                                   |            |                             |                    |                                    |
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**When you plan to inspect colonies – i.e. external inspection of entrance, quick check open cover, fully open hives:**

1. Weekly
2. Biweekly
3. Monthly

- 🐜 Remember to consider external temperatures
- 🐜 Put a dates on calendar

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**What you expect will be the hive development – i.e. quantity of worker and brood population:**

1. Dormant: Winter
2. Increase: Spring-Summer
3. Peak: Summer-Fall
4. Decrease: Fall-Winter

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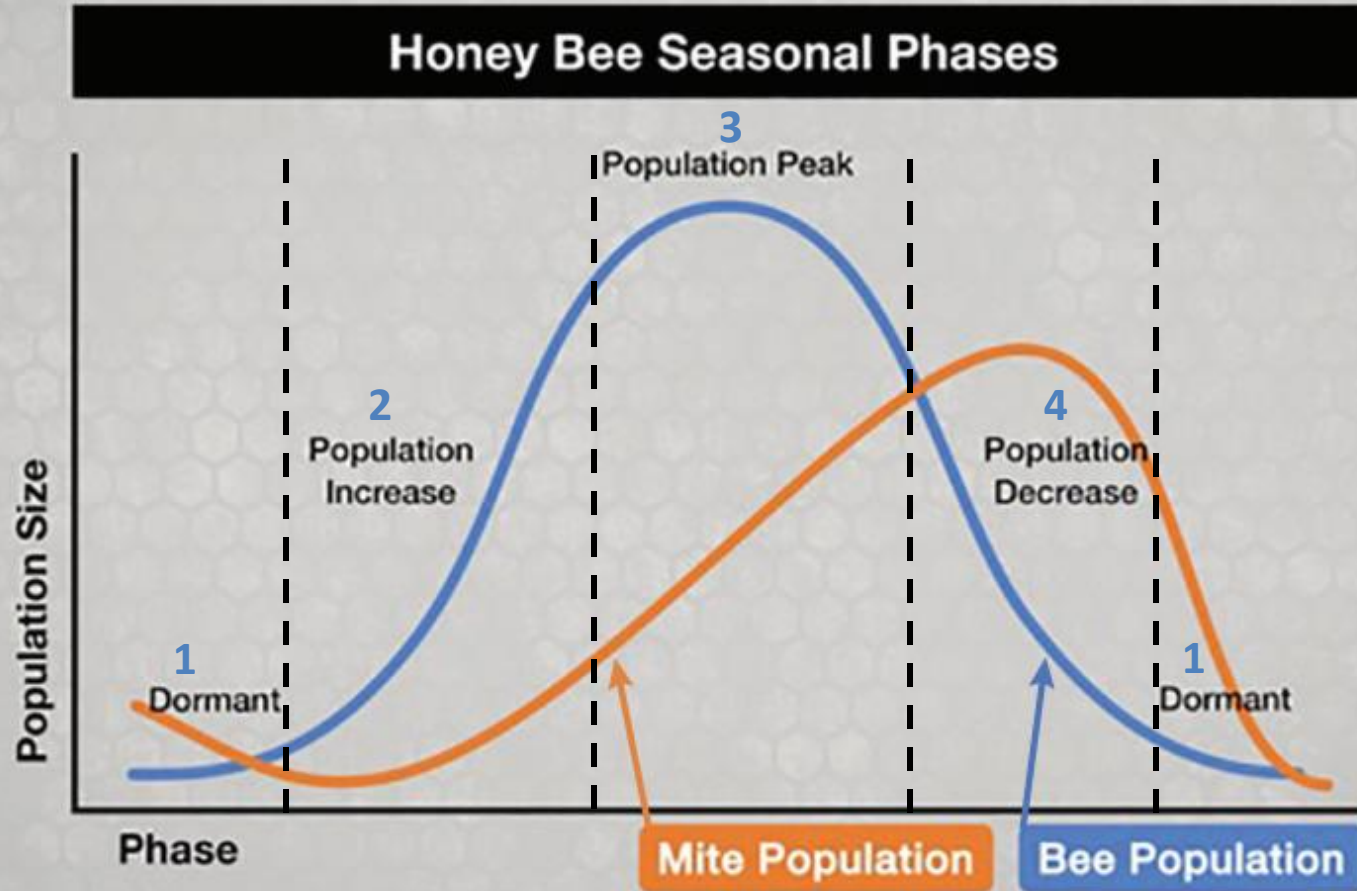


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Figure 1: Varroa Mite Life Cycle



For details on the Varroa Life Cycle consult:

[www.extension.org/pages/65450/varroa-mite-reproductive-biology](http://www.extension.org/pages/65450/varroa-mite-reproductive-biology)

**TOOLS FOR VARROA MANAGEMENT**  
A GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE VARROA SAMPLING & CONTROL

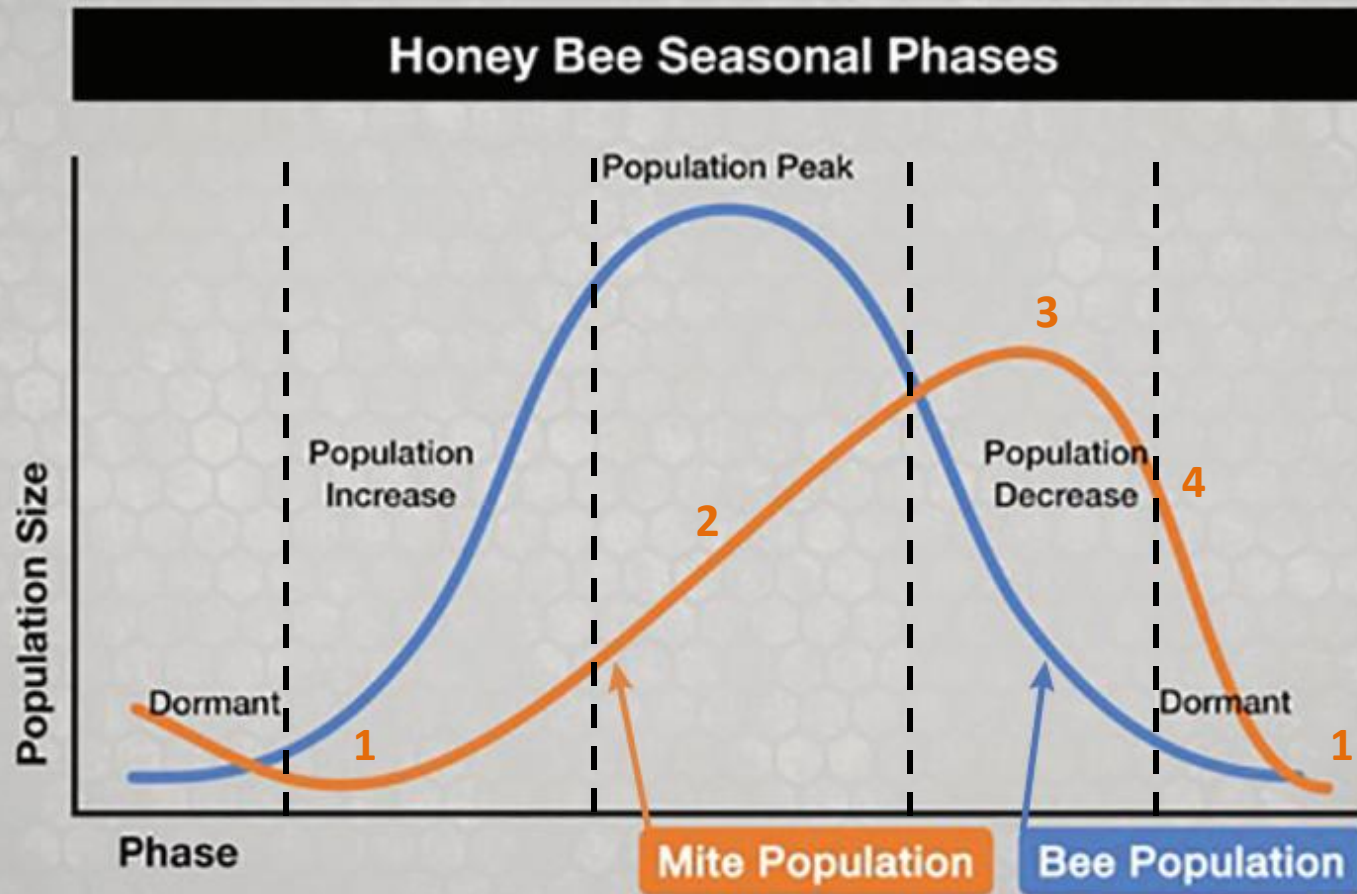
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**HONEY BEE  
HEALTH  
COALITION.**

Source: [www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/np\\_web\\_files/images/beekeeping/beekeeping\\_guide/beekeeping\\_guide.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/np_web_files/images/beekeeping/beekeeping_guide/beekeeping_guide.pdf)

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Source: [www.extension.org](http://www.extension.org), June 15, 2014.  
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**When you think honey flow will occur – i.e. plan to add/take off honey supers:**

1. Super
2. No super

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# Varroa Mite Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan



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| November                    |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| December, January, February |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |

**When you think honey flow will occur – i.e. plan to add/take off honey supers**

This publication was funded by the Northeastern IPM Center through Grant #2014-70006-22484 from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Crop Protection and Pest Management, Regional Coordination Program.

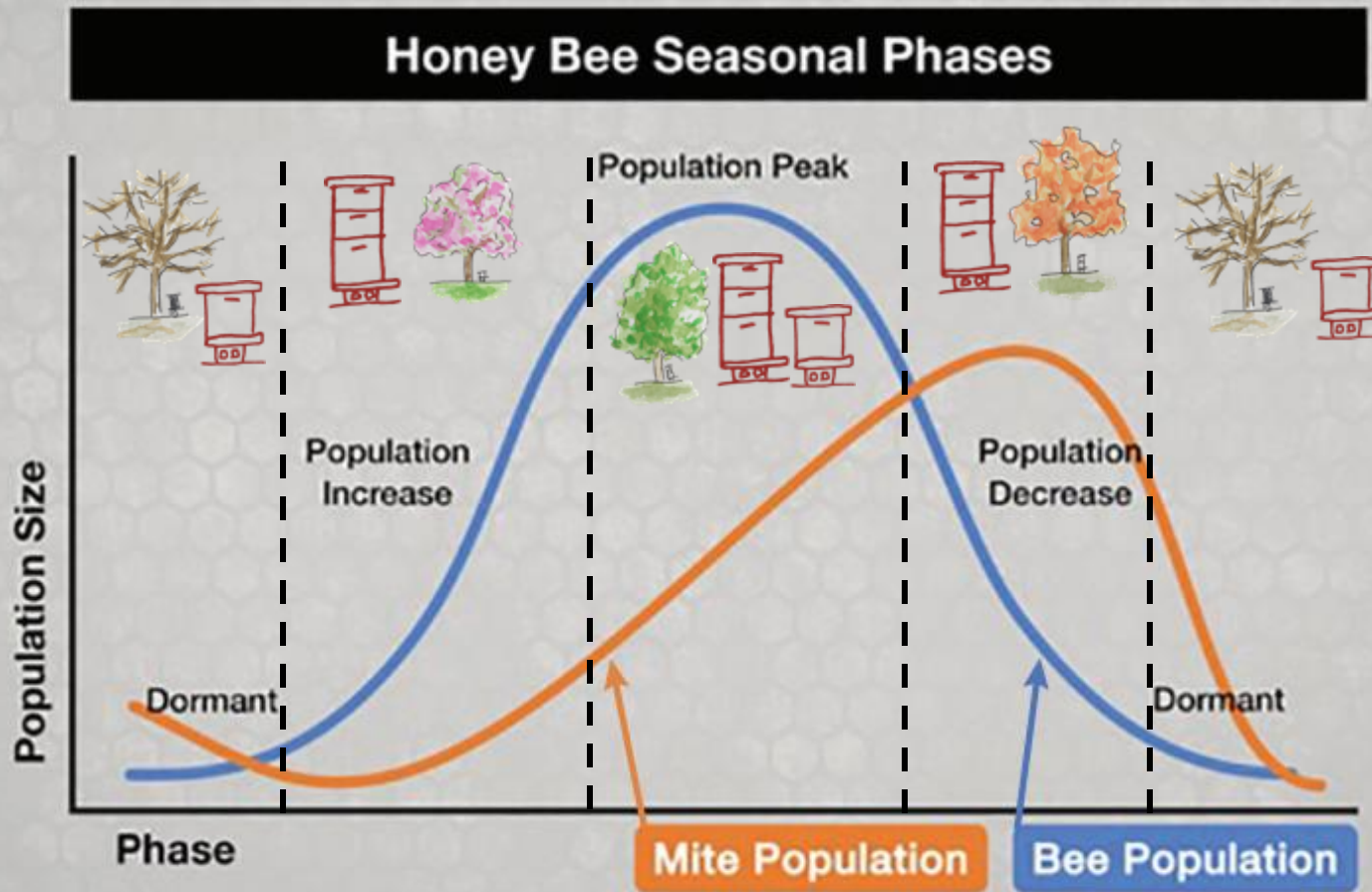


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Figure 1: Varroa Mite Life Cycle



For details on the Varroa Life Cycle consult:

[www.extension.org/pages/65450/varroa-mite-reproductive-biology](http://www.extension.org/pages/65450/varroa-mite-reproductive-biology)

**TOOLS FOR VARROA MANAGEMENT**  
A GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE VARROA SAMPLING & CONTROL

HEALTHY BEES • HEALTHY PEOPLE • HEALTHY PLANET™

**HONEY BEE HEALTH COALITION**

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# Questions



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# Varroa Mite Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan



Year \_\_\_\_\_ Apiary Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hive Type(s) \_\_\_\_\_

| Month                             | Colony Inspection Timeline<br>(i.e. time - type) | Colony Population<br>(i.e. stage) | Honey Flow<br>(i.e. super) | Mite Monitoring Timeline<br>(i.e. time - notes) | Non-Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. cultural, mechanical, genetic) | Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. miticides) |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| March                             |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| April                             |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| May                               |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| June                              |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| July                              |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| August                            |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| September                         |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| October                           |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| November                          |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| December,<br>January,<br>February |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |

**When you will monitor hives using alcohol wash/roll to determine Varroa mite level?**

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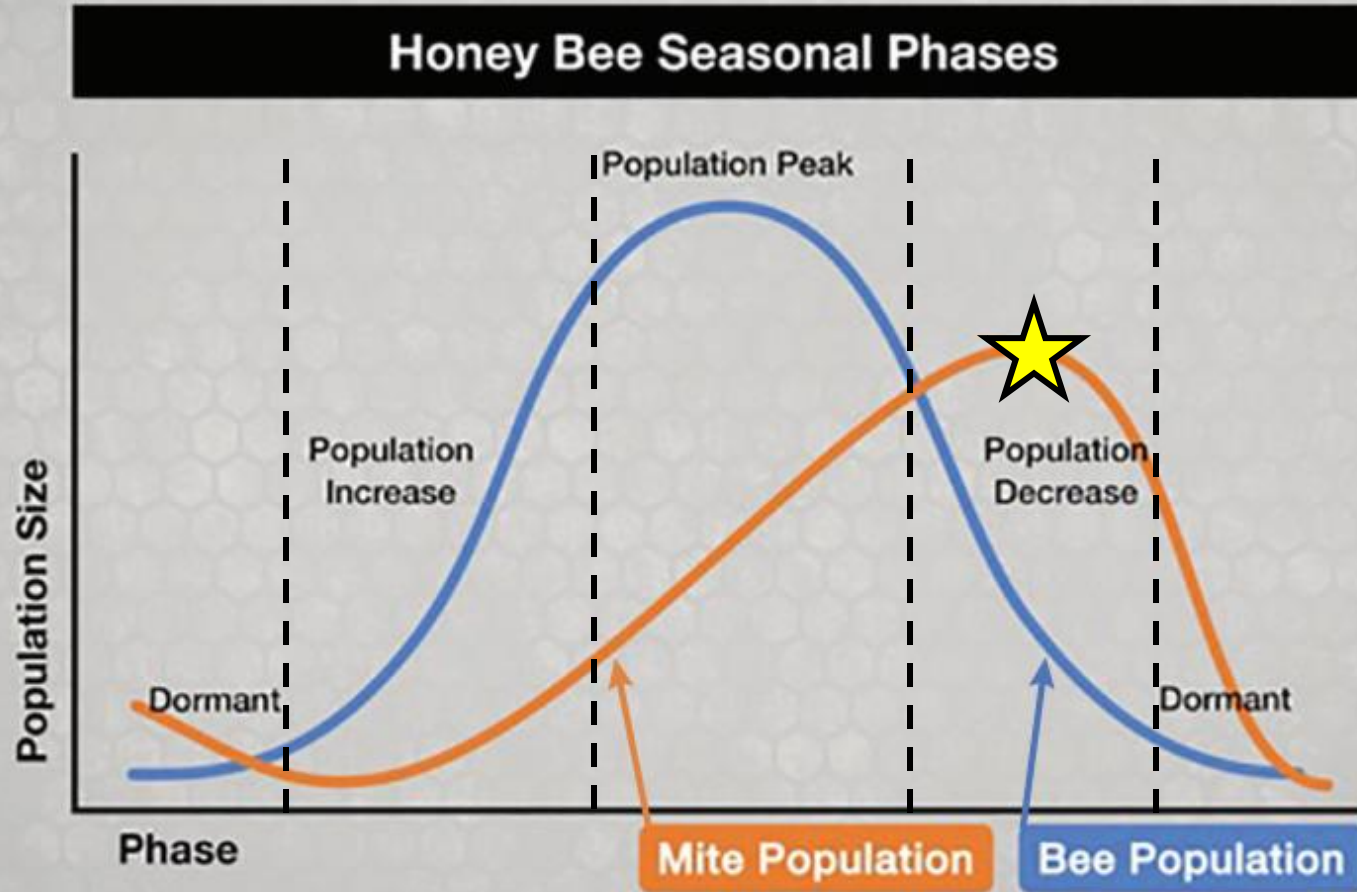


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Figure 1: Varroa Mite Life Cycle



For details on the Varroa Life Cycle consult:

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Source: [www.extension.org](http://www.extension.org), June 11, 2014.  
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All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the Extension Project.

# Monitor and Sampling...YES!

| Hive Type    | First Monitoring Event  | Future Monitoring Events              | Mite Threshold (#mites/100bees)        |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Overwintered | Early Spring when bees are active & outside temps allow hive inspection | Monthly (at least), & After treatment | 1% (ideal) to 3% (treatment threshold) |
| Package      | At install? (ask supplier)  |                                       |  |
| Nuc          | At install? (ask supplier)  |                                       |  |
| Split        | At install? (mite monitoring of original hive?)                         |                                       |  |
| Swarm        | At install  |                                       |  |
| Cut-Out      | At install  |                                       |  |



**Remember to Always Monitor Pre AND Post Treatment!**

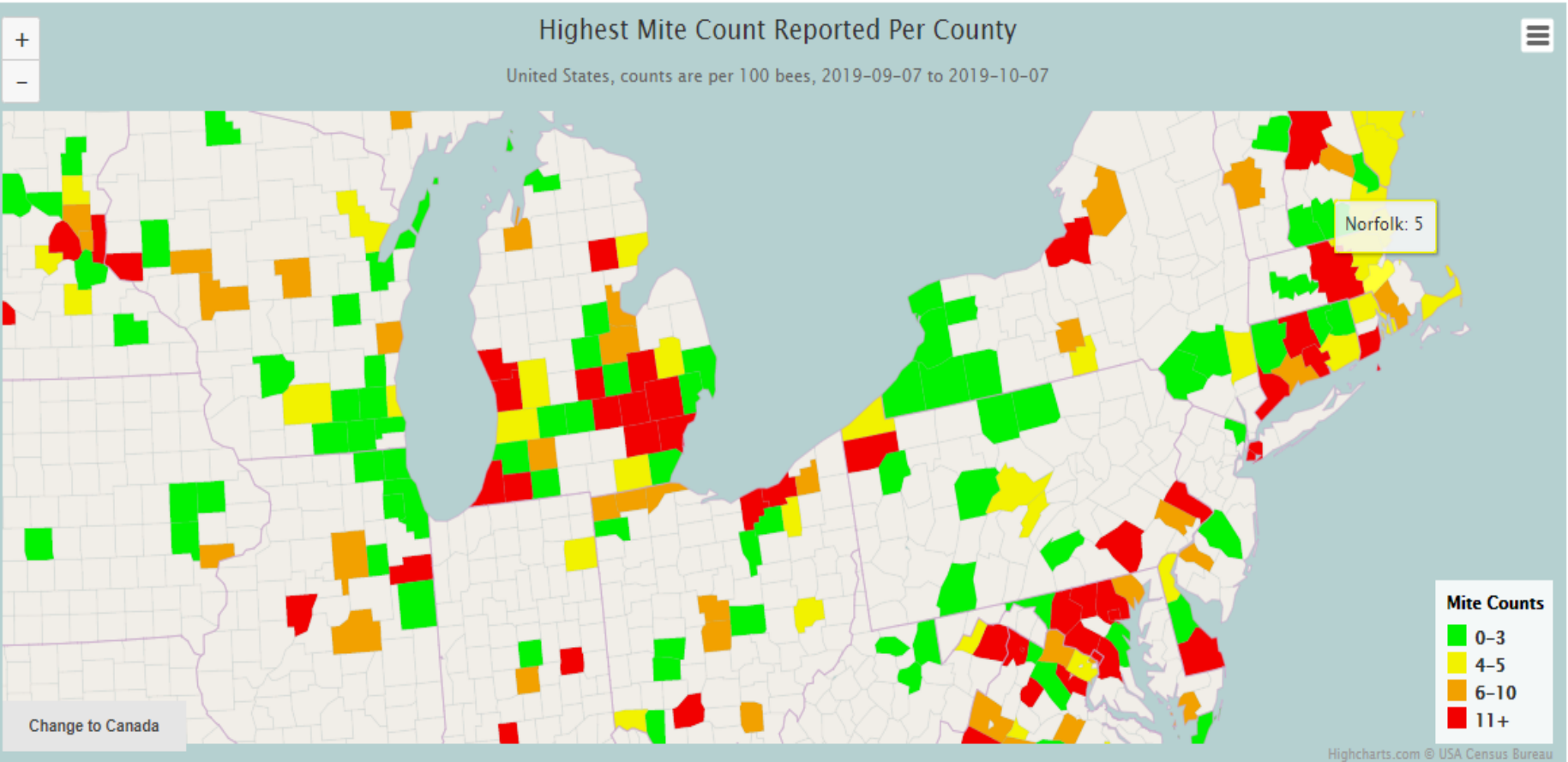


## Varroa Integrated Pest Management – Sampling & Control Tracking Worksheet

| Inspection Date | Apiary | Colony # | # of Sampled colonies | Initial Sampling Results | Action/treatment taken | Treatment date applied | Treatment date completed | Follow-up Sampling Date | # of Sampled Colonies After Treatment Completed | Sampling Results After Treatment | Notes (i.e. observations, batch number if chemical used, follow-up treatment if any, etc.) |
|-----------------|--------|----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
|                 |        |          |                       |                          |                        |                        |                          |                         |   |                                  |  |
|                 |        |          |                       |                          |                        |                        |                          |                         |   |                                  |  |
|                 |        |          |                       |                          |                        |                        |                          |                         |   |                                  |  |
|                 |        |          |                       |                          |                        |                        |                          |                         |   |                                  |  |
|                 |        |          |                       |                          |                        |                        |                          |                         |   |                                  |  |

📅 Responses sampled from **August 1st, 2019** to **October 7th, 2019**

Change ▾



- 0 - 3: Relatively low mite level, keep monitoring and managing (splitting, drone trapping, brood breaks, screened bottom boards) mite populations.
- 4 - 5: Intervention (use of a miticide) will greatly increase chances of colony survival.
- 6 - 10: Colony loss or damage likely. Intervention is critical to prevent colony loss from mite infestation.
- 11+: Loss of colony likely. Intervention is essential to decrease the threat of horizontal transmission (spread) of mites to neighboring colonies.



# Varroa Mite Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan



Year \_\_\_\_\_ Apiary Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hive Type(s) \_\_\_\_\_

| Month     | Colony Inspection Timeline<br>(i.e. time - type)   | Colony Population<br>(i.e. stage) | Honey Flow<br>(i.e. super) | Mite Monitoring Timeline<br>(i.e. time - notes) | Non-Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. cultural, mechanical, genetic) | Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. miticides) |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| March     |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| April     | <p><u>What tools are you planning to use? Ask yourself...</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☼ Do I need to remove it?</li> <li>☼ Will I have time to remove it?</li> <li>☼ Do I have time to re-queen, if needed?</li> <li>☼ Do I have time to build-up before winter?</li> </ul> <p><u>Options:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Space/paint/barrier/rotate entrances</li> <li>2. Replace frames</li> <li>3. Screened bottom boards</li> <li>4. Drone frames</li> <li>5. Brood interruption/cage queen</li> <li>6. Re-queen</li> <li>7. Split</li> <li>8. Swarm management</li> </ol> |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| May       |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| June      |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| July      |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| August    |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| September |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| October   |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| November  |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| December  |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| January   |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| February  |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |

This publication was funded by the Northeastern IPM Center through Grant #2014-70006-22484 from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Crop Protection and Pest Management, Regional Coordination Program.



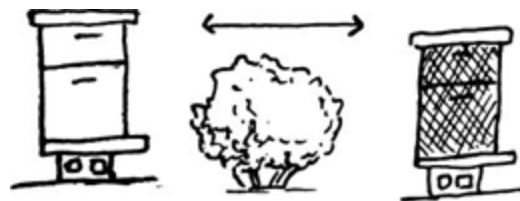
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# Cultural, Mechanical & Genetic Tools

## Apiary Design & Population Density

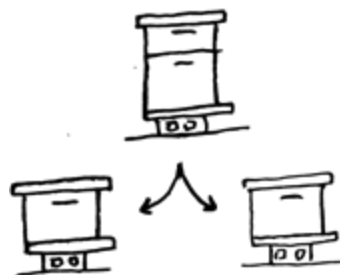


Reduce Transmission



Keep Hives Small

## Genetics

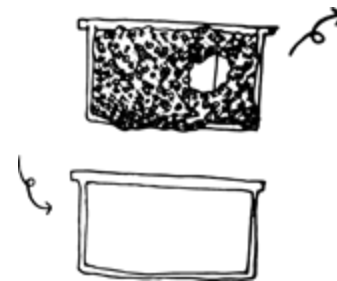


Queen Stock/Colony Selection

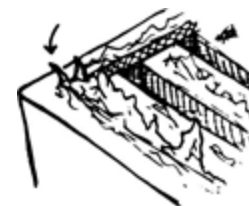
Swarm Management



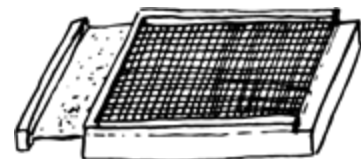
## Support Social Immunity



Swap Old Frames



Leave Propolis

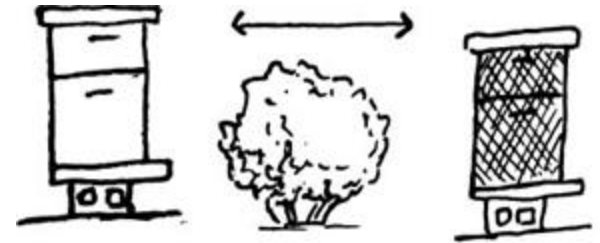


Screened Bottom Boards

# Apiary Design & Population Density

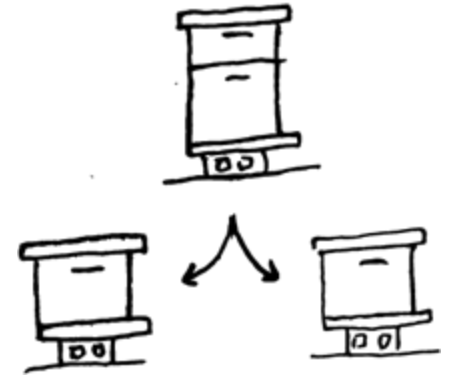
## Control Drift Between Hives:

- Space hives at least 10ft apart
- Separate hives on stands
- Paint hives different colors
- Provide barrier between hives
- Rotate hive entrances to face different directions



## Reduce Robbing:

- Monitor for strength
- Keep hives small – single box?
- Do not open-air feed bees
- Do not leave equipment/comb exposed
- Replace damaged equipment

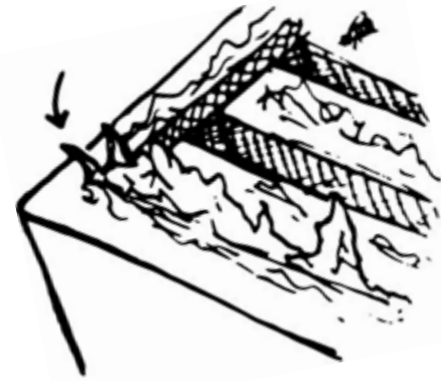
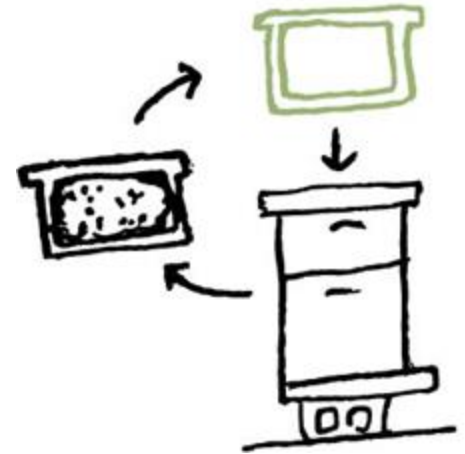


# *Support Social Immunity*



## Hive Hygiene:

- Replace old comb every 3-5 years
- Replace broken & damaged frames
- Do not:
  - purchase/sell used equipment
  - rotate boxes/equipment in apiary without records
- Encourage propolis
- Consider benefits of screen bottom boards
- Monitor drone brood frames



# Queen & Colony Genetics

## Queen

- Use or re-queen with “Varroa Warriors” - Russian, VSH, Ankle Biter
- Re-queen using local stock of survivor colonies
- Keep genetics of *high grooming behavior* and low Varroa mite level queens in apiary – graft/splits

## Colony

- Take splits from colonies - low Varroa mite levels & high overwinter survival
- Manage swarms - misconception that they have low Varroa mite levels - sample, then decide
- Do not combine declining/weak colonies or those with high Varroa mite levels

# Using genetic stocks to reduce *Varroa* mite loads

| Stock                                | Description of the behavior   | Institution that selected or imported stock  | Mite life stage affected |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| Varroa-sensitive hygienic (VSH) bees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bees uncap and remove or chew infested pupae; immature mites die</li> </ul>  | USDA Bee Breeding Laboratory in Baton Rouge, Louisiana<br>Minnesota Hygienic Line, University of Minnesota | Reproductive             |
| Grooming behavior bees               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bees remove mites from their own bodies and/or their nestmates' bodies</li> <li>• Stocks with grooming behavior also tend to express VSH behavior</li> </ul>   | Clemson University, South Carolina (still in development)  | Dispersal                |
| Ankle Biter bees                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bees remove mites from their bodies and bite mites' legs off; mites can no longer attach onto bees</li> </ul>  | Purdue University, Indiana   | Dispersal                |
| Russian bees                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Russian bees encountered mites nearly a century ago and have had more time to naturally develop tolerance</li> <li>• They have increased VSH behavior and cease brood production (causing a break in the brood cycle) in times of food shortage</li> </ul> | Imported by the USDA Bee Breeding Laboratory in Baton Rouge, Louisiana                                     | Reproductive             |

Dispersal mites

adult mites present on bee bodies

Reproductive mites: reproducing mites present in capped pupae

Source: Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences –  
*Resources for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Varroa Mite Control*



# Questions



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# Varroa Mite Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan



Year \_\_\_\_\_

Apiary Name \_\_\_\_\_

Hive Type(s) \_\_\_\_\_

| Month                       | Colony Inspection Timeline<br>(i.e. time - type) | Colony Population<br>(i.e. stage) | Honey Flow<br>(i.e. super) | Mite Monitoring Timeline<br>(i.e. time - notes) | Non-Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. cultural, mechanical, genetic) | Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. miticides) |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| March                       |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| April                       |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| May                         |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| June                        |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| July                        |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| August                      |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| September                   |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| October                     |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| November                    |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |
| December, January, February |  |                                   |                            |   |  |                                    |

What tools are you planning to use? Ask yourself...

- ☼ Current/Future outside temperature?
- ☼ Colony population
- ☼ Need to penetrate brood-cappings?
- ☼ Will honey supers be on?
- ☼ Treatment duration conflict with management?
- ☼ Have equipment to apply treatment?
- ☼ Have time to re-queen, if needed?
- ☼ Have time to re-treat, if needed?

Options:

1. Apivar
2. Apiguard
3. Api Life Var
4. MAQS/Formic Pro
5. Api-Bioxal/Oxalic Acid
6. HopGuard II/III

*This publication was funded by the Northeastern IPM Center through grant #20006-22484 from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, National Integrated Pest Management, Regional Coordination Program.*

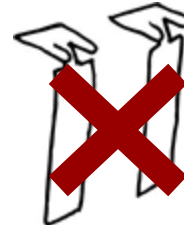
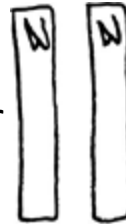


# Chemical Tools – SAFETY

## Gloves



Apivar



Apistan



CheckMite+

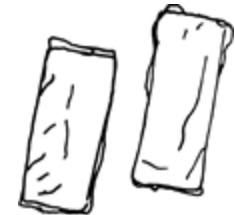
## Gloves + Protective Eyewear



Hop Guard II/III



Apiguard



MAQ/Formic Pro

## Gloves + Protective Eyewear + Respirator



Api-Bioxal/Oxalic Acid



Api Life Var

# Chemical Tools – TEMPERATURE

<50°F



Oxalic Acid/Api-Bioxal



Hop Guard II/III



Apivar

≥50°F



Apiguard



Api Life Var



Api-Bioxal/  
Oxalic Acid



Apivar



MAQ/Formic Pro



Hop Guard II/III

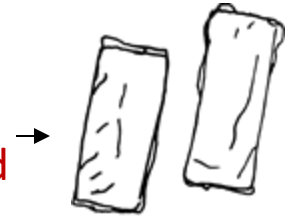
# Chemical Tools – HONEY SUPERS

Can apply with supers



Hop Guard II/III

Kills  
under  
capped  
brood



MAQ/Formic Pro

Cannot apply with supers



Apivar



Apiguard



Api Life Var



Api-Bioxal/  
Oxalic Acid



# VARROA MITE IPM PLAN EXAMPLES



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# Varroa Mite Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan



Year \_\_\_\_\_ Apiary Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hive Type(s) \_\_\_\_\_

| Month                             | Colony Inspection Timeline<br>(i.e. time - type)                                 | Colony Population<br>(i.e. stage)                    | Honey Flow<br>(i.e. super)          | Mite Monitoring Timeline<br>(i.e. time - notes)  | Non-Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. cultural, mechanical, genetic)  | Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. miticides)  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| March                             | <i>N/A,<br/>monthly,<br/>bimonthly -<br/>external,<br/>quick check,<br/>open</i> | <i>dormant,<br/>increase,<br/>peak,<br/>decrease</i> | <i>N/A,<br/>no super,<br/>super</i> | <i>N/A,<br/>monthly -<br/>pre/post treatment</i> | <i>N/A,<br/>space/paint/barrier/rotate entrances,<br/>replace frames,<br/>screened bottom board,<br/>drone frames,<br/>brood interruption/cage queen,<br/>re-queen,<br/>split,<br/>swarm management</i> | <i>N/A,<br/>Apivar,<br/>Apiguard,<br/>Api Life Var,<br/>MAQS/Formic Pro,<br/>Api-BioXal/OA,<br/>Hopguard II/III</i> |
| April                             |  |  |                                     |  |   |   |
| May                               |  |  |                                     |  |   |   |
| June                              |  |  |                                     |  |   |   |
| July                              |  |  |                                     |  |   |   |
| August                            |  |  |                                     |  |   |   |
| September                         |  |  |                                     |  |   |   |
| October                           |  |  |                                     |  |   |   |
| November                          |  |  |                                     |  |   |   |
| December,<br>January,<br>February |  |  |                                     |  |   |   |

*Example*

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INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY for VARROA

YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

| Month               | Supers on?   | # Colony Inspections | Monitor for Mites? | Mite Threshold (/100 bees) | Cultural Treatment Options | Chemical Treatment Options (if over threshold) |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| April               |              | 1                    |                    |                            |                            |  |
| May                 |              | 2                    | ✓                  | 1                          | Drone                      |  |
| June                | ✓            | 2                    | ✓                  | 1                          | Drone                      |  |
| July                | ✓            | 2                    | ✓                  | 1                          |                            |  |
| August              | ✓            | 2                    | ✓                  | 1                          |                            |  |
| September           | ✓            | 2                    | ✓                  | 1                          |                            |  |
| October             | <del>✓</del> | 2                    | ✓                  | 1                          |                            |  |
| November            | <del>✓</del> | 2                    | ✓                  | 1                          |                            |  |
| Dec/Jan/<br>Feb/Mar |              | 2                    |                    |                            |                            |  |

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY for VARROA

YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

| Month               | Supers on? | # Colony Inspections | Monitor for Mites? | Mite Threshold (/100 bees) | Cultural Treatment Options | Chemical Treatment Options (if over threshold) |
|---------------------|------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| April               | 2          | X                    | X                  | 1                          | Potential requeen          | Oxalic acid                                    |
| May                 | 2          | X                    | X                  | 1                          |                            | Oxalic acid                                    |
| June                | 2          | X                    | X                  | 1                          |                            | Formic acid                                    |
| July                | Y          | X                    | X                  | 2                          |                            | As needed based on mite load                   |
| August              | Y          | X                    | X                  | 2                          |                            |  |
| September           | Y          | X                    | X                  | 2                          |                            |  |
| October             | Y          | X                    | X                  | 2                          |                            | Apivar   |
| November            | Y          | X                    | X                  | 2                          |                            |  |
| Dec/Jan/<br>Feb/Mar |            |                      |                    |                            |                            |  |

+ Alcohol washes  
 ++ Education w/ local beekeepers

# Varroa Mite Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan



Year 2020

Apiary Name MDAR State Apiary

Hive Type(s) 10 frame Langstroth - overwintered

| Month                       | Colony Inspection Timeline<br>(i.e. time - type) | Colony Population<br>(i.e. stage) | Honey Flow<br>(i.e. super) | Mite Monitoring Timeline<br>(i.e. time - notes) | Non-Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. cultural, mechanical, genetic)              | Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. miticides) |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| March                       | monthly - external, quick check, open?           | dormant to increase               | N/A                        | N/A   | screened bottom board   | N/A                                |
| April                       | monthly - open                                   | increase                          | no super to super          | monthly   | space/rotate entrances, screened bottom board                           | N/A                                |
| May                         | bi-monthly - open                                | increase                          | super                      | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board, replace frame, re-queen, split, swarm management | Api Life Var                       |
| June                        | bimonthly - open                                 | increase                          | super to no super          | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board, re-queen, split, swarm management                | N/A                                |
| July                        | monthly - open                                   | increase to peak                  | super                      | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board   | MAQS/Formic Pro, if needed         |
| August                      | bi-monthly - open                                | peak                              | super                      | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board, swarm management, re-queen, combine              | Apiguard                           |
| September                   | bi-monthly - open                                | peak to decrease                  | super to no super          | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board, combine  | Api-Bioxal/OA dribble or Apivar    |
| October                     | monthly - open                                   | decrease                          | super to no super          | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board   | N/A                                |
| November                    | monthly - external                               | decrease to dormant               | N/A                        | N/A   | screened bottom board   | N/A                                |
| December, January, February | monthly - external, quick check                  | dormant                           | N/A                        | N/A   | screened bottom board   | N/A                                |

*Example*

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# Varroa Mite Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan



Year 2020

Apiary Name MDAR State Apiary

Hive Type(s) 10 frame Langstroth - overwintered

| Month                       | Colony Inspection Timeline<br>(i.e. time - type) | Colony Population<br>(i.e. stage) | Honey Flow<br>(i.e. super) | Mite Monitoring Timeline<br>(i.e. time - notes) | Non-Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. cultural, mechanical, genetic)                      | Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. miticides)     |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|--|
| March                       | <i>monthly - external, quick check, open?</i>    | <i>dormant to increase</i>        | <i>N/A</i>                 | <i>N/A</i>                                      | <i>screened bottom board</i>  | <i>N/A</i>                             |
| April                       | <i>monthly - open</i>                            | <i>increase</i>                   | <i>no super to super</i>   | <i>monthly</i>                                  | <i>space/rotate entrances, screened bottom board</i>                            | <i>N/A</i>                             |
| May                         | <i>bi-monthly - open</i>                         | <i>increase</i>                   | <i>super?</i>              | <i>monthly - pre/post treatment</i>             | <i>screened bottom board, replace frames, re-queen, split, swarm management</i> | <i>Api Life Var?</i>                   |
| June                        | <i>bimonthly - open</i>                          | <i>increase</i>                   | <i>super to no super</i>   | <i>monthly - pre/post treatment</i>             | <i>screened bottom board, re-queen, split, swarm management</i>                 | <i>N/A</i>                             |
| July                        | <i>monthly - open</i>                            | <i>increase to peak</i>           | <i>super</i>               | <i>monthly - pre/post treatment</i>             | <i>screened bottom board</i>  | <i>MAQS/Formic Pro, if needed</i>      |
| August                      | <i>bi-monthly - open</i>                         | <i>peak</i>                       | <i>super?</i>              | <i>monthly - pre/post treatment</i>             | <i>screened bottom board, swarm management, re-queen, combine</i>               | <i>Apiguard?</i>                       |
| September                   | <i>bi-monthly - open</i>                         | <i>peak to decrease</i>           | <i>super to no super</i>   | <i>monthly - pre/post treatment</i>             | <i>screened bottom board, combine</i>   | <i>Api-Bioxal/OA dribble or Apivar</i> |
| October                     | <i>monthly - open</i>                            | <i>decrease</i>                   | <i>super to no super</i>   | <i>monthly - pre/post treatment</i>             | <i>screened bottom board</i>  | <i>N/A</i>                             |
| November                    | <i>monthly - external</i>                        | <i>decrease to dormant</i>        | <i>N/A</i>                 | <i>N/A</i>                                      | <i>screened bottom board</i>  | <i>N/A</i>                             |
| December, January, February | <i>monthly - external, quick check</i>           | <i>dormant</i>                    | <i>N/A</i>                 | <i>N/A</i>                                      | <i>screened bottom board</i>  | <i>N/A</i>                             |

This publication was funded by the Northeastern IPM Center through Grant #2014-70006-22484 from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Crop Protection and Pest Management, Regional Coordination Program.



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# Varroa Mite Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan



Year 2020

Apiary Name EXAMPLE

Hive Type(s) 10 frame Langstroth - package

| Month                       | Colony Inspection Timeline<br>(i.e. time - type) | Colony Population<br>(i.e. stage) | Honey Flow<br>(i.e. super) | Mite Monitoring Timeline<br>(i.e. time - notes) | Non-Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. cultural, mechanical, genetic)                          | Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. miticides)  |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| March                       | N/A  | N/A                               | N/A                        | N/A   | space/paint/barrier/rotate entrances  | N/A   |
| April                       | install  | increase                          | N/A                        | ask supplier                                    | screened bottom board, drone frame  | Api-Bioxal/OA spray at install if supplier did not treat or Hopguard II/III |
| May                         | monthly - open                                   | increase                          | super                      | monthly   | screened bottom board, drone frame  | N/A   |
| June                        | monthly - open                                   | increase                          | super                      | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board, drone frame, swarm management, brood interruption/cage queen | MAQS/Formic Pro, if needed  |
| July                        | monthly - open                                   | increase to peak                  | super                      | monthly   | screened bottom board, drone frame  | MAQS/Formic Pro, if needed  |
| August                      | bimonthly - open                                 | peak                              | N/A                        | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board, drone frame, swarm management, brood interruption/cage queen | Apiguard  |
| September                   | bimonthly - open                                 | peak to decrease                  | N/A                        | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board, drone frame  | Apivar  |
| October                     | monthly - open                                   | decrease                          | N/A                        | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board   | N/A   |
| November                    | monthly - external                               | decrease to dormant               | N/A                        | N/A   | screened bottom board   | N/A   |
| December, January, February | monthly - external, quick check                  | dormant                           | N/A                        | N/A   | screened bottom board   | Api-Bioxal/OA vaporizer   |

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INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY for VARROA

YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

Packages

| Month               | Supers on? | # Colony Inspections                          | Monitor for Mites?       | Mite Threshold (/100 bees) | Cultural Treatment Options  | Chemical Treatment Options (if over threshold)                                     |
|---------------------|------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| April               | No         | Queen release<br>Capped brood<br>Every 7 days | Alcohol<br>WASH<br>ASAP! | 1                          | Set up hives 10' apart<br>Paint different colors<br>Openings different direction<br>Feed them syrup | Api var if mites high  |
| May                 | No         | Every 7 days                                  | 1st Sat every month      | 2                          | drone frames<br>feed syrup  | Hop guard or formic acid depending on temperature                                  |
| June                | YES        | ↓   | ↓                        | 3                          | drone frames  | If over use <del>mite</del> formic acid  |
| July                | No         |   |                          | 3                          | drone frame   | Api var<br>+2 days<br>+14 days before<br>adding<br>supers                          |
| August              | No         |   |                          | 2                          | drone if needed   | ↓  |
| September           | YES        |   |                          | 2                          |   | Formic Acid  |
| October             | No         |   |                          | 1                          |   | If needed Api var  |
| November            |            |   |                          |                            | -   | Prepare for winter, last mite check<br>mouse guard, candy boards<br>moisture board |
| Dec/Jan/<br>Feb/Mar |            |   |                          |                            | -   |  |

| Month               | Supers on? | # Colony Inspections | Monitor for Mites? | Mite Threshold (/100 bees) | Cultural Treatment Options   | Chemical Treatment Options (if over threshold) |
|---------------------|------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| April               | N          | N/A (Install)        | N                  | N/A                        | Screen Bottom<br>10' distance<br>Paint Hives different directions<br>Paint different colors, add landmarks | N/A  |
| May                 | N          | 2                    | 1                  | 1                          |  | Formic<br>Oxalic<br>Hopguard                   |
| June                | N          | 2                    | 1                  | 1                          | Re-queen w/ hygienic queen   | Above + Apiguard, ApiLife VAR                  |
| July                | N          | 3                    | 1                  | 1                          |  | ↓  |
| August              | N          | 3                    | 2                  | 1                          |  | ↓  |
| September           | N          | 2                    | 1                  | 1                          |  | Above + Apivar                                 |
| October             | N          | 2                    | 1                  | 1                          |  | ↓  |
| November            | N          | 1                    | 0                  | N/A                        | Solid bottom board on winter prep  | N/A  |
| Dec/Jan/<br>Feb/Mar | N          | Check<br>Sugar Brick | 0                  | N/A                        |  | N/A  |

# Varroa Mite Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan



Year 2020

Apiary Name EXAMPLE

Hive Type(s) 10 frame Langstroth - nuc

| Month                       | Colony Inspection Timeline<br>(i.e. time - type) | Colony Population<br>(i.e. stage) | Honey Flow<br>(i.e. super) | Mite Monitoring Timeline<br>(i.e. time - notes) | Non-Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. cultural, mechanical, genetic)                          | Chemical Tools<br>(i.e. miticides) |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| March                       | N/A  | N/A                               | N/A                        | N/A   | N/A   | N/A                                |
| April                       | N/A  | N/A                               | N/A                        | N/A   | space/paint/barrier/rotate entrances  | N/A                                |
| May                         | install  | increase                          | super                      | install   | screened bottom board, drone frame  | N/A                                |
| June                        | monthly - open                                   | increase                          | super                      | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board, drone frame, swarm management, brood interruption/cage queen | MAQS/Formic Pro, if needed         |
| July                        | monthly - open                                   | increase                          | super                      | monthly   | screened bottom board, drone frame  | MAQS/Formic Pro, if needed         |
| August                      | bimonthly - open                                 | Increase to peak                  | no super                   | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board, drone frame, swarm management, brood interruption/cage queen | Apiguard                           |
| September                   | bimonthly - open                                 | peak to decrease                  | no super                   | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board, drone frame  | Apivar                             |
| October                     | monthly - open                                   | decrease                          | N/A                        | monthly - pre/post treatment                    | screened bottom board   | Api-Bioxal/OA Vaporizer            |
| November                    | monthly - external                               | decrease to dormant               | N/A                        | N/A   | screened bottom board   | N/A                                |
| December, January, February | monthly - external, quick check                  | dormant                           | N/A                        | N/A   | screened bottom board   | Api-Bioxal/OA vaporizer            |

This publication was funded by the Northeastern IPM Center through Grant #2014-70006-22484 from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Crop Protection and Pest Management, Regional Coordination Program.



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# Questions



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# Some Questions For You



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# Find a Colleague

- To post a profile about yourself and your work:
  - <http://neipmc.org/go/APra>
  - “Find a Colleague” site
  - <http://neipmc.org/go/colleagues>



# Recording of Varroa Mite IPM Webinar Series

- Past recordings and today's Webinar will be available to view **on demand** in a few business days.
- <http://www.neipmc.org/go/ipmtoolbox>
- You can watch as often as you like.

# APIARY INSPECTORS OF AMERICA

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## Welcome to the Apiary Inspectors of America

The Apiary Inspectors of America is a non-profit organization established to promote better beekeeping conditions in North America. Members of the Association,

representatives, and individual beekeepers, work together to develop effective laws and methods for the protection of honey bees as a mutual understanding and respect. The AIA goal is to provide accurate information and assessment of honey bees, while seeking to improve bee health and plant pollination.

Over the past decade from an increasing number of reports, more information about colony loss has been gathered. See the Bee Informed Partnership



Search ...

| April |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|
| M     | T  | W  | T  |
|       |    | 1  | 2  |
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| 13    | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 20    | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 27    | 28 | 29 | 30 |

« Jan



# We love talking about bees!

# Fight The Mite Workshop for Beekeepers

~~Saturday May 2nd, 9am - 4pm - UMass Amherst, MA~~  
**Postponed - contact to get put on list**



**COST: \$40**

<https://ag.umass.edu/pollinators/events/fight-mite>

**Registration Includes:**

- Bee-themed T-Shirt
- Sampling jar
- IPM brochure

**Chance to win Apiary Diagnostic Kit!**



# Apiary Program (honey bees)

MDAR's Apiary Program mission is to promote and sustain apiculture and honey bee health in the Commonwealth by providing support to honey beekeepers, pesticide applicators, farmers, land managers, educators, regulators, and government officials.

The Apiary Program serves in the role of both an extension outreach education service and regulatory authority for the enforcement of laws and regulations that pertain to honey

## What would you like to do?

### Top tasks

[Request an Inspection](#)

[Register Your Apiary](#)

### All other tasks

[Massachusetts Apiary and Pesticide Locator \(MAPL\)](#)

[Have Honey Bees? Then Complete the BEE AWARE: MA Honey Bee Health Survey](#)

[MA Honey Bee FAQ](#)

[Find Local Honey](#)

[Visit a State Apiary](#)

[Join the Apiary Program Mailing List!](#)



## BEE AWARE: The 2019-2020 Massachusetts Honey Bee Health Survey

Thank you for participating in the BEE AWARE Health Survey by providing feedback on the health of your honey bee colonies!

This survey has been created by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) to serve as a tool for Massachusetts honey beekeepers to share data on colony health for the past to current bee season: April 2019 - April 2020.

Participation in this survey is voluntary. A summary of results will be provided to the beekeeping community and presented at the Massachusetts State Beekeepers Association Annual Meetings. After the completion of this survey, if requested, a FREE - BEE AWARE sign will be sent to the first 250 respondents.

Happy Beekeeping,  
-The MDAR Apiary Program Bee Team

Next

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Apiary (Honey Bee) Program

The purpose of the Apiary Program is to prevent the introduction and/or spread of regul honey bee diseases, parasites, and undesirable genetic material in resident and migrat honey bee colonies, as well as encourage and maintain interstate movement of honey for crop pollination and honey production.

Fill Out the 2019/2020 Maine Beekeeper Survey

The annual Maine beekeeper survey of losses and management practices is now live ready for your input! Gathering this type of data is important for seeing trends, recogni; determining where to focus education/outreach activities in the future. A summary repc Maine State Beekeepers annual meeting in October and available online.

- Take the 2019/2020 Maine Beekeeper Survey

On this page: Licensing, Importing and Inspection Education, Training and Event Swarm Collectors

Licensing, Importing and Inspection of Honey Bees

Anyone who keeps honeybees in Maine MUST obtain an apiary license.

- Apiary License Application (PDF) (DOCX) Fee Schedule (PDF)

Anyone who imports bees into Maine MUST submit an Import Notification of Bees form and pay the appropriate fee.

- Import Notification of Bees (DOCX) Fee Schedule (PDF)

Honey bee colonies in Maine may be inspected for regulated diseases and parasites. Inspections of colonies may also be performed upon request.

- Hive Inspection Request Form

Education, Training and Events

The Apiary program educates beekeepers, growers and the general public about bee keeping techniques and the value of honeybees to Maine agriculture.

Fact Sheets

Maine Beekeeper Survey 2019/2020

Maine Honey Bee Survey April 2019 - April 2020

Thank you for taking part in the Maine Honey Bee Survey. Data collected will be used to summarize beekeeping practices and losses in the State of Maine for the 2019/2020 beekeeping season. All responses are confidential. This survey should take about 15 minutes and we ask that you please provide information about honey bee colonies that you owned from April 2019 - April 2020.

A summary of the survey can be found on the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Apiary website mid July 2020 and will be presented at the 2020 Maine State Beekeepers Annual Meeting.

Thank you!

\* Required

1. In what county do you live? \*

Enter your answer

2. In what town do you live?

Enter your answer

3. In what Maine town(s) are your apiary/apiaries located? \*

Enter your answer

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Apiary Program 28 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333 phone: (207) 287-3891 fax: (207) 287-5576

## Acknowledgements

# Northeastern IPM Center

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# Thanks for Joining Us!



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