



Varroa control

The varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) is a long-established pest for beekeepers in New Zealand. Beekeepers need to treat for varroa as part of their ongoing hive management to keep the mites under control and protect their bee colonies. Biosecurity New Zealand has put together a checklist to assist all beekeepers in their ongoing management of varroa.

Varroa mite checklist

- ☐ **Learn about varroa.** Knowing about varroa will help you identify mites and use treatments appropriately. Check out our bee pest and disease factsheet [here](#) and the [Bee Biosecurity Visual ID Guide](#)
- ☐ **Use recommended treatment practices only.** Employ a combination of chemical and biotechnical methods to effectively suppress mite populations. Alternate between chemical treatments to prevent future resistance.
- ☐ **Follow treatment instructions closely.** Always carefully read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions and [ACVM regulations](#) for any chemical treatment you apply. This will ensure the treatment is applied correctly and is, therefore, effective.
- ☐ **Stay up-to-date with varroa treatments.** Varroa should be treated regularly. Keeping on top of your varroa treatment will protect your hives from damage.
- ☐ **Monitor regularly.** Ongoing monitoring for varroa is critical for the survival of your beehives. It will enable you to know when treatment is needed. Use a sugar-shake, alcohol-wash or sticky-board method within each hive or apiary. Monitor before, during and after a treatment, and if reinvasion occurs, be prepared to treat for varroa immediately.
- ☐ **Remain vigilant.** Varroa can rebound or reinvade hives quickly, so keep monitoring mite levels and treat appropriately.
- ☐ **Stay up-to-date with the latest information.** Get a copy of the updated *Control of Varroa: A Guide for New Zealand Beekeepers*, 3rd edition to better understand varroa damage thresholds and how to control varroa mites.
- ☐ **Keep connected.** Talk to your local bee club, industry group and neighbours about varroa management and how you can help each other.
- ☐ **Report any problems.** If you suspect any adverse events with your varroa treatments, [let us know here](#). If you suspect an exotic pest or disease is in your hive then call MPI on **0800 80 99 66**.