



DUNFERMLINE AND WEST FIFE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

GUIDELINES FOR OXALIC ACID TRICKLE TREATMENT

EQUIPMENT: -

- Vacuum flask or insulated container to keep solution warm.)
- Veterinary Syringe – >40 ml capacity.) For treatment.
- Rubber or Plastic Gloves.))
- Safety Goggles. (Suitable for chemical use))
- Face mask to EN149 P2 rating)
- Plastic or glass mixing vessel.) For preparation of solution.
- Stirring rod.)
- Scales to measure small amounts. (35g ± 2g))
- Plastic or glass storage vessel.)

CONSUMABLES : -

- 35g Oxalic acid dihydrate.
- 200g Granulated sugar.
- Make up to 1 Litre with Water.

Note! The above will treat approx. 25 - 30 colonies with 10 frames of bees.

PREPARATION: –

- Dissolve sugar in 0.75Lt water at approx. 60°C then:
- Add 35g oxalic acid and stir till completely dissolved
- Make up to 1.0 Lt with more water
- Allow to cool to approx. 37°C prior to use.

APPLICATION: -

Using the syringe trickle 3 to 4 ml of the warm solution (at approx. 37°C ‘Blood Heat’) evenly over bees seen between a pair of top bars in the cluster. Repeat for each pair of bars.

NB – With ‘Double Brood’ hives the method should be modified to ensure that bees in both boxes are treated – tilt the upper box to expose the top of the lower box and treat the bees thus exposed then replace the upper box and treat that. This can be done by one person if the upper box is propped up but is better with an assistant to hold the upper box.

TIME OF TREATMENT: -

One treatment only per year after removal of the honey crop and when no (minimal) brood is present. Usually in November or December. The ambient temperature is believed not to be critical but it is suggested that 5°C to 8°C should be a target and the solution should be warm to reduce the risk of chilling the bees.

SHELF LIFE: -

Limited unless stored at <5°C. The acid degrades the sugar to produce HMF in the solution
Make fresh solution as required.

HEALTH AND SAFETY: - **IMPORTANT - See over.**



HEALTH AND SAFETY: -

- **AVOID INHALATION OF ACID POWDER.**
- **Keep away from Children, Eyes and Mouth.**
- **Mark storage container 'HARMFUL' and 'Oxalic acid 3.5% solution in Light Syrup'**
- **Wear protective clothing during preparation and gloves when dispensing.**
- **Learn the first aid procedure.**
- **Store concentrate in a secure (locked) store.**

In the event of **powder inhalation** seek **medical help** immediately.

In the event of contact with eyes or mouth flush with clean water.

In the event of spillage mop up immediately and flush with clean water.

In the event of ingestion drink copious amounts of water.

NOTE! These are guidelines for information only and The Association accepts neither liability nor responsibility for their accuracy. Members use this information at their own discretion and risk.