



Apiculture Factsheet

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Factsheet #102

COMMON BEEKEEPING TERMS

Acarine	Infestation of the trachea of the adult honeybee by the microscopic mite <i>Acarapis woodi</i> . Generally called the (honeybee) tracheal mite, or HBTM.
Acaracides	See <i>Miticides</i> .
AFB	American Foulbrood, a bacterial disease caused by <i>Paenibacillus larvae</i> .
Amitraz	see <i>Apivar</i>
Antibiotics	Drugs used to assist in the control of several bacterial and protozoal diseases.
Apiary	Location where one or more honeybee colonies are kept.
Apiculture	The keeping and management of the honeybee, <i>Apis mellifera</i> .
Apistan	Trade name of a miticide used to control Varroa mites with the active ingredient <i>fluvalinate</i> , a synthetic pyrethroid of low toxicity.
Apivar	Trade name of a miticide used to control Varroa mites with the active ingredient <i>amitraz</i> , an amidine acaracide and insecticide.
Asiatic bee	The Asiatic honey bee, <i>Apis cerana</i> , is widely distributed throughout southern and south-east Asia. The colonies are small and produce small quantities of honey. Some important diseases affecting European honey bees originated in <i>Apis cerana</i> .
Bee Bread	Mixture of pollen, honey and traces of royal jelly produced by worker bees and fed to worker and drone brood.
Bees Wax	A glandular secretion of animal wax used for many purposes in the hive.
Brood Food	Glandular secretions of highly nutritious food used to feed young larvae and queens.
Build-up	The natural increase of the bee population within a colony – from the spring cluster until the main nectar flow of summer.
Bucket Feeder	A food-grade bucket with a modified screened sealable lid that is placed upside down onto the inner cover for rapid sugar-syrup feeding.
Capping	A thin layer of wax covering cells containing honey. Bee brood cells are covered with a permeable, porous layer of wax.

Chalkbrood	A fungal disease caused by <i>Ascosphaera apis</i> resulting in the mummification of bee brood.
CheckMite+	Trade name of a miticide used in the control of Varroa mites with the active ingredient coumaphos , an organophosphate.
Colony	A cluster of worker-bees with a queen and drones.
Coumaphos	<i>See CheckMite +</i>
Drawn Comb	Combs of completed cells.
EFB	European Foulbrood, a bacterial disease caused by <i>Melissococcus pluton</i> .
Extracting	Removal of honey from the comb by placing honey frames in an extractor which spins the frames and removes the honey through centrifugal force.
Fluvalinate	<i>See Apistan</i>
Formic Acid	Simplest of organic acids, used to control Varroa and Tracheal mites at 60% concentration. Various application methods and formulations are used but all are based on evaporation of the liquid acid. Formic acid occurs naturally in honey.
Formic Pro	A commercial mite control product with formic acid as active ingredient.
Foulbrood	Bee brood disease, involving either AFB or EFB.
Foundation	Frames equipped with manufactured sheets of beeswax or plastic that are embossed with hexagonal shapes.
Fumagillin	An antibiotic specifically used to control <i>Nosema apis</i> . Product sold under the trade name Fumagillin-B or Fumidil-B.
Hive	The pieces of equipment used to house the honeybee colony.
Hive Tool	A metal tool of different designs used for super and frame manipulation.
Honeydew	A sugar-rich sticky liquid secreted by aphids that feed on plant juices. Honeybees collect, process and store as nectar. Honeydew is not a true honey as it has no floral origin.
Honey Flow	The portion of the nectar flow that becomes the harvestable honey crop. <i>See Nectar Flow.</i>
Hopguard	A commercial mite control product with extracts of the hop plant (<i>Humulus lupulus</i>) as active ingredient.
Inner Cover	Thin wooden cover that is placed on the top box/super. It is equipped with rims on both sides of the cover which allows for reversal. The rim on one side has a recessed space of about 5 cm (2") which can serve as a top entrance. Inner covers are equipped with a centre hole (or rectangle) which allows for the placement of a bucket feeder.
MAQS	A commercial mite control product with formic acid as active ingredient.

Miticides	Products used to control parasitic mites in honeybee colonies. Products are also called acaracides.
Mitegone	A commercial mite control product with formic acid as active ingredient.
Nectar	Carbohydrate food source gathered from the nectaries of flowers.
Nectar flow	The nectar flow is the total amount of nectar honeybees collect from flowers through the season to meet their energy requirements and to store the excess as honey.
Nosema	An intestinal disorder of adult honeybees caused by the microsporidian <i>Nosema</i> . There are two species of <i>Nosema</i> in Canada including <i>N. apis</i> and <i>N. ceranae</i> .
Nuc	Also known as a nucleus colony . A nuc is a complete colony with one egg-laying queen, worker bees, 3-5 frames with brood in all stages of development and some reserves of pollen and honey.
Oxalic acid	Simple organic acid, used in the control of Varroa in the winter. Acid occurs naturally in rhubarb leaves.
Oxytet	Trade name for the antibiotic formulation oxytetracycline hydrochloride , used to control bacterial bee brood diseases.
Oxytetracycline	Antibiotic registered in Canada for the control of brood diseases. Sold under different trade names, including Oxytet, Terramycin, etc.
Package	A bee package consists of a container that holds 2, 3 or 4 pounds of worker bees. The package may also include a small cage that holds the queen. The container also includes a carbohydrate food source to sustain the bees.
Pollen	A protein food gathered by worker bees from the anthers of flowers. Pollen provides minerals, fats and vitamins and is consumed by young nurse bees and converted into brood food and "royal jelly".
Propolis	Resins and gums gathered from trees and used to seal cracks, repair cells, and ward off microbial pathogens.
Sacbrood	Bee brood disease caused by the Sac Brood Virus SBV.
Small Hive Beetle	<i>Aethina tumida</i> is a subtropical beetle. Its larval stages tunnel through brood comb and feed on bee brood, honey and pollen. The beetle can also be a problem in honey houses when comb and cappings are exposed.
Smoker	Cylindrical burner attached to a hand-held bellows producing smoke to control bees and reduce defensive behaviour.
Supers	Hive boxes with or without frames.
Supersedure	Replacement of the existing queen by a young queen produced by the bees within the colony from their own larvae or eggs.

Swarming	The natural process of a colony to multiply through the departure of a part of the bee population with a queen, to establish a new nest.
Terramycin	Trade name of the antibiotic <i>oxytetracycline hydrochloride</i> , used to control bacterial brood diseases. Product is marketed under various trade names.
Thymovar	Varroa mite control product. Active ingredient is thyme oil which is released as a volatile vapour from an impregnated wafer placed in the hive. Effective within the temperature range of 15 – 25°C. Proven very effective in combination with oxalic acid when applied in broodless period in November – December.
Tracheal Mite	see Acarine (disease).
Tropilaelaps	<i>T. clarae</i> is a natural mite parasite of the Asian Honey Bee (<i>A. cerana</i>). Its lifecycle is similar to Varroa. It doesn't occur in North America.
Tylosin	Antibiotic under the tradename "Tylan". Effective in the control of AFB including r-AFB (which is resistant to oxytetracycline). Product is persistent and is recommended only as fall treatment.
Uncapping	The process of removing the waxed cappings from cells containing honey.
Varroa	A mite parasitizing bee brood and adult bees, called Varroa destructor . The mite was originally a natural parasite of the Asian Honey Bee <i>Apis cerana</i> . Varroa was formerly called <i>Varroa jacobsoni</i> .
Viruses	There are many different viruses affecting honey bees. In B.C., several viruses have been identified, including Kashmir Bee Virus (KBV), Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus (IAPV), Acute Bee Paralysis Virus (ABPV), Sacbrood Virus (SBV) and Deformed Wing Virus (DWV). Other viruses may also be endemically present, including Chronic Paralysis Virus (CPV), Acute Bee Paralysis Virus (ABPV) and Black Queen Cell Virus (BQCV). Their pathology in honey bees is not clearly understood but it is assumed that their virulence is triggered in the presence of other bee diseases, especially parasitic mites.