

Powdered Sugar Roll Method for Varroa Mites

Materials

- Powdered sugar
- Container such as a canning jar
- 8x8 hardware cloth
- Light colored container to shake the mites onto
- 200-400 bees



Directions

1. Make sampling vessel by replacing the metal topping of the canning jar with the 8x8 circle of hardware cloth
2. Shake 100-200 bees into container
3. Pour 2 tablespoons of powdered sugar into the jar through the hardware cloth
4. Shake the jar gently to coat the bees
5. Wait ~2 minutes
6. Flip the container of bees over into the other light colored container and shake the mites and powdered sugar out through the screen
7. Shake the container for about 1 minute
8. Count the number of mites in the container: this is how you can estimate the number of mites per 100 bees in your colony.
9. Return your bees to their colony
10. Note: if there are broods in your colony at the time of the sample, you should double the amount of mites estimated in your colony. For example, if you count 5 mites per 100 bees, you may have ~10 mites per 100 bees if you have brood.