Alcohol Wash & Varroa Tracking Log

ABOUT THE ALCOHOL WASH

The alcohol wash is the gold standard for measuring varroa mite infestation levels. Collect approximately 300 bees (roughly a half-cup) from a brood frame — avoid the queen. Submerge in 70% isopropyl alcohol, shake for 60 seconds, and count the mites that fall through the mesh. Divide mites counted by bees sampled × 100 to get your infestation percentage.

COLONY PHASE	ACCEPTABLE	CAUTION	DANGER — TREAT NOW
Buildup / Dearth / Winddown	Under 1.0%	1.0 – 2.0%	Above 2.0%
Peak Season (May – Aug)	Under 2.0%	2.0 – 4.0%	Above 4.0%
Pre-Winter / Winter	Under 0.5%	0.5 – 1.0%	Above 1.0%

Thresholds based on AUBEE / HBHC guidelines. Alabama beekeepers: use peak season thresholds May through August.

WASH LOG

DATE	HIVE	BEES SAMPLED	MITES COUNTED	INFEST. %	PHASE	STATUS	ACTION TAKEN / NOTES

Formula: (Mites Counted ÷ Bees Sampled) × 100 = Infestation % | Recommend washing every 30 days during peak season, every 6 weeks otherwise.

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