

Monitoring: Alcohol wash method

The most accurate monitoring method!

Directions:

- Shake bees from 2 brood frames into a bucket or pan. (Locate queen first.)
- Scoop up 1/2 cup of bees (about 300), dump into jar with alcohol, put lid on jar, and shake for at least one minute.
- Pour through sieve. Repeat wash with trapped bees
- Count mites in liquid & bees in sieve. (Though 1/2 cup of bees will be about 300 bees.
- Monitoring results – Divide number of mites found by number of bees (or 300 if using 1/2 cup of bees), multiply by 100. This will give you mites per 100 bees.

You may download the 7th edition of the [Honey Bee Health's Coalition Guide for managing varroa mites](#) at their website. You will find detailed directions for monitoring methods, and interpreting results, on pages 7 & 8.

If you have questions on varroa, or any beekeeping questions, you may email me at philcraftbeekeeping@windstream.net.

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