

## Apibioxal treatment

Following on from our last Zoom meeting about Varroa, Dave Heaton was down the apiary giving a demonstration on administering Apibioxal by the trickle method and Gas Vaping. I have put some videos of the demonstration below.

Firstly, I need to say that in the UK, Apibioxal is the **only** the only Oxalic Acid medication approved by the Veterinary Medicine Directorate.

A few safety notes for those of you planning to use Apibioxal. Care must be taken when handling this powder as it is corrosive and toxic, do not inhale the powder. High concentrations of the acid are an irritant, so do not allow them to come into contact with bare skin. Wear rubber gloves, overalls (beesuit) which you should wash after use and wash away any spills with large volumes of water.. When using the sublimation or Gas Vaping method, you should also wear a mask, heat proof gloves.

### Trickle Method

Apibioxal comes in various packet sizes of 35g, 175g and 350g and the small packet (35g) is enough to treat 10 hives. The idea being that you dissolve the powder in sugar syrup as per the instructions on the packet but this for the 10 hive strength (The recommended **concentration** to use oxalic acid at in the UK being **3.2% w/v** (weight per volume) in 1:1 syrup)

Now some of you, will not have 10 hives and want to save some powder for the following season, expiry date willing, so for those of you have ever looked at the excellent "The Apiarist" blog then he has very kindly worked out the weights/calculations for your desired amount.



<https://www.theapiarist.org/oxalic-acid-api-bioxal-preparation/>

The trickle method is a once a season treatment as it damages the Bee's fatbodies and the timing for this treatment is best when the colony is broodless, as it unable to get through the sealed brood cappings protecting the varroa.

It is a quick and easy treatment and as simple as dribbling/tricking 5ml of the prepared solution down the seams (space between frames) where the bees are clustered. You can use a syringe or a Trickle 2 bottle which are cheap and available from most beekeeping suppliers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIFcgEdl1k0&feature=youtu.be>

## Gas Vap



Firstly, I just want to reiterate when sublimating oxalic acid that you do need to wear an appropriate full face mask with filters and heat proof gloves.

The Gas Vap is a portable Oxalic Acid Vaporiser which heats up the Apibioxal very quickly via propane gas cartridge enabling the quick treatment of hives. This involves heating a chamber with a gas torch and then adding a measured amount of acid in a treatment cup. As the acid heated, it is vaporised forced out of the

outlet into the hive and will then be spread further by the bees as they move around the hive. Full instructions do come with the product

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ln-vnx5a91g&feature=youtu.be>