

2025 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #17a

Bee season seems to be going well here in North Carolina. Checking for mites should be on your calendar and I have been introduced to some new products to treat for them. Staying up with all the new products sold is important.

Varroa mites have been around since its arrival in 1987. In all the years since, it is found everywhere in the U.S. and other locations world-wide. It is the #1 killer of honeybees and so far, all the research and methods of treatment have come up a bit short of finding a sure solution to the problem except try products that do help some. Breeding efforts have helped some but the varroa mite has adapted to living quite well in a hive of honeybees. They were quickly spread across the U.S. mostly blamed on the package bee producers in the 1990's from southern locations. The goal today is treating for mites to keep their populations down to prevent colony losses. If one doesn't treat or use some brood interruption method to control mite populations, I can say with some certainty that their bees face the real possibility of dying.

Dana