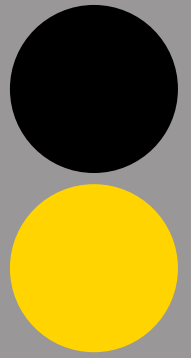


# APILIFE VAR

VMD APPROVED

VARROA TREATMENT



## Overview

### About the Treatment: Apilife Var

Apilife Var is made up of a mixture of 4 aromatic substances; Thymol, eucalyptus oil, menthol and camphor. These essential oils contained in the Apilife Var tablets reach the varroa by evaporation and by contact. The active ingredients act on several of the varroa mite cells' receptors, causing their paralysis and death. The mixture of the ingredients has been studied to guarantee constant evaporation. Used in isolation, each ingredient would harm the varroa mites', but the synergic effect of all Apilife Var's ingredients, makes the treatment incredibly effective.

Apilife Var has a long curriculum of scientific tests carried out in different geographical areas, in different climatic conditions and on numerous hives types. The efficacy results obtained from these tests are, on average, always higher than 90%. The most important factors in obtaining this result are the right method of administration, the correct application and optimal temperature.



### How to use it:

- Before you apply the treatment, it is important to insert the varroa board into the floor of the hive and remove your entrance block (so the bees have a larger flight opening). You should remove any honey supers from your hive.

- Handle the bag carefully, to avoid breaking the tablets. Use scissors to cut the bag open at one end and the tablets will slide out
- Break one of the tablets into 4 parts
- remove the roof and crownboard from the hive and place the parts of the tablet in each corner of the hive, resting on top of the brood frames.
- Replace your crownboard and roof
- let the product work for 7 days
- Repeat this process 3 times, for a total of 4 applications. The treatment lasts 28 days altogether.

**Please see our YouTube channel (Thorne Beehives) for a video about how to use Apilife Var**

## Questions & Answers

### **Q. When can I use Apilife Var?**

**A.** The temperature range is Min. +15° C to Max. 30° C The ideal average temperature is +20°/+25° C . This means the treatment should be used in summer (and possibly spring) months, for optimal performance. Temperature is an important factor in the success of Apilife Var, as it relies on evaporation rate.

### **Q. Which is the best time of day to apply Apilife Var?**

**A.** Apilife Var can be applied at any time of the day but it is recommended to treat the colonies early in the morning or late afternoon, when temperatures are normally lower. This minimizes the initial disturbance that the application of the product may cause the colony (evaporation rates are higher when the temperature increases, and so applying it in a colder climate introduces the bees to the treatment more gradually).

### **Q. Can I feed my colonies during the treatment?**

**A.** Yes, you can feed the colony with syrup or fondant. The tablet, if applied close to the feed, could reduce the speed of food consumption. This is nothing to worry about.

### **Q. Can I visit my hives during the treatment?**

**A.** It is not recommended to open the hives during the treatment. The active ingredients act by evaporation, and repeated opening of the hive may release the vapours

### **Q. If the strip is removed by the bees before the 7 days are over, do I have to put a new one in?**

**A.** No. You must not reapply the treatment until seven days have passed, this is to avoid overdosing the medicine. The speed of removal of the pieces depends on the temperatures and the strength of the colony. It is possible to slow down the removal by dividing the strips into larger pieces, in two instead of four.

### **Q. When repeating the application, if I find strips residues do I have to remove them?**

**A.** No, it is not necessary to remove the strip residues between one application and another. If pieces still remain at the end of the fourth application, they can be removed.

**Q. The treatment takes longer to be removed by the bees after the second application, why is this?**

**A.** After the second application, the bees are better accustomed to the vapours of the active ingredients, consequently the cleaning behaviour is slowed down compared to the first application.

**Q. What can I do if I find broken pieces of Apilife Var strip after opening the sachet?**

**A.** If there are few fragments of regular shape and size in the bag, attributable to one of the two strips, you can use them. (You are advised to break them into 4 pieces anyway)

However, if the tablets are broken into many pieces, they would release the active ingredients into the hive too quickly, with risk of harming the bees. In this case, don't use them. Apilife Var tablets are fragile, therefore it is essential to transport, handle and open the bag with care. You are most likely to damage the tablets when opening and handling the bag.

**Q. What should I do if the bees start to import nectar during the treatment?**

**A.** Apilife Var could alter the organoleptic characteristics of honey, so do not treat if you expect a honey-flow. It is recommended to wait 15 days from the end of the treatment before replacing the honey super.

**Q. My hives are located in a very hot climate, but need to be treated. Can I use Apilife Var?**

**A.** When it is very hot, so with temperature > 30°C (>86°F), do not treat. If the average temperatures are close to this limit, it is possible to treat by applying it during the cooler hours of the day, in this way the evaporation of the active ingredients will be limited, giving the bees time to get accustomed to it.

If the average daily temperatures are much higher than 30°C (86°F) and colony stress is observed, remove the varroa board and stop the treatment.

**Q. I noticed that bees tend to propolize the tablet of Apilife Var during the first week; may the effectiveness be compromised?**

**A.** This is a typical behaviour of bees. It is normal for them to isolate all foreign material introduced into the hive. It does not reduce the efficacy of the treatment.

**Q. I noticed that bees tend to move pieces of Apilife Var from inside to the outside of the beehive; what can I do and does it affect the efficacy of the treatment?**

**A.** The removal of the tablet pieces, just like their propolisation, is a normal colony behaviour. This behaviour is useful for the functioning of the medicine, which acts not only by evaporation but also by contact. Therefore, effectiveness is not affected. To reduce the elimination speed of the tablet it could be divided into two pieces, instead of four, to increase the size and make removal by bees more difficult.

**Q. During the treatment with Apilife Var I noticed robbing behaviour, what should I do?**

**A.** If robbing behaviour is noted, stop the treatment of the robbed hive/s, reduce the size of the flight opening and possibly remove the hive/s from the apiary. It is recommended to avoid this phenomenon by applying the treatment simultaneously on all the apiary hives.

**Q. I used Apilife Var in the spring and my colony seems very small, why?**

**A.** Occasionally, treatment can cause a temporary interruption of the laying of the brood, especially with high temperatures. Laying restarts once the levels of active ingredients in the hive reduce or when bees get used to the treatment.

**Q. Can I use Apilife Var at the same time as other acaricides?**

**A.** No. The adverse reactions that could occur following the simultaneous use of multiple acaricides have not been studied.

**Q. Is varroa mite resistant to the active ingredients of Apilife Var?**

**A.** Resistance against Thymol and the other active ingredients of Apilife Var has not been reported. Unlike chemicals, which act on specific cellular structures of the parasite, essential oils act in a more generalized way. This makes the onset of resistance to these molecules more difficult.

**Q. I am an organic beekeeper; can I use Apilife Var?**

**A.** Yes, the European Regulation 2018/848, relating to organic production, allows its use in organic beekeeping. The Apilife Var manufacturer supplies an organic product certificate, issued by an Italian organic certification agency.

**Q. How should I store Apilife Var?**

**A.** The product should be stored away from direct sunlight, away from heat sources and at a temperature below 25 ° C. The bag must not be refrigerated or frozen, and must be protected from frost. The intact envelope is valid for 24 months from the production date. Once the envelope is opened, the tablets must be used and cannot be kept.

## Contact Information

For any questions or clarifications, please reach out to us:

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