

### **Varroa Mite number estimation**

Mite populations should be monitored three or four times a year. Aim to keep the population below 1000 mites per full colony. Counting natural mite drop is the simplest method.

Put a clean insert under mesh floor for 7 days in summer, 14 days in winter. Count the mite drop at the end of monitoring period and divide by the number of days to give the daily mite drop. (Easiest way to count mites is to scrape everything off insert into a container and float the mites off by stirring into a small amount of alcohol)

Multiply the daily drop by 100 in March, April, September and October, 400 in November to February, and 30 in May to August to give a good estimate of the total number of mites in the hive.