Oxalic Acid Treatment using Vaporizer

As oxalic acid does not penetrate to the covered brood the most effective to treat colonies is when the hive is almost broodless – late in the fall (October or November).

Smoke entrance of hive. After several seconds pry up the bottom brood box from the bottom board. Leave tool there and pry out entrance reducer. Immediately block entrance with blocking material such as a cloth. Make sure if using a screened bottom board that the bottom is blocked or closed.

Measure one gram of oxalic acid per brood chamber into bowl of vaporizer. Insert vaporizer into the hive under the middle of the bottom brood box and quickly seal the entrance.

Connect leads to battery and start timer. After 2 ½ minutes remove one battery lead. Leave vaporizer in place for two more minutes.

Remove vaporizer but keep entrance blocked for 10 minutes.

It is recommended that hives be treated three times at two week intervals to ensure newly-hatched bees receive treatment.

--Tom Cairns, St. Clair Beekeepers Association (January 2017)