

How to make oxalic acid sponges

companion document to workshop by Harold S on April 22, 2023

Description

- Link to Harold S workshop: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qvzUZ-KYzIac3rAawsgfLB8pmVGDwg4fj/view?ts=6508cd30>
- Recipe is a 1:1 mixture of oxalic acid to glycerin by weight.
- treatment is intended for early spring thru summer when honey supers are on
- Sponges can be left on hive 65 to 70 days
- Sponges can only be stored for about 2 months. After this, the sponges start to break down.
- Two sponges/hive (1x8x3.125) between boxes for 2 box hive. (between brood cluster)

Items needed

- Oxalic Acid in powder form
- Vegetable glycerin
 - Vegetable glycerin has a shelf life of 24 months when stored between 0 and 100 degrees
- Swedish dishtowels
 - “If you care 100% natural sponge”. Dimensions: 1.5x8x6.25
 - https://www.amazon.com/If-You-Care-Natural-Sponge/dp/B00AFBICE0/ref=sr_1_7?crid=ES4Y5BSZJXUW&keywords=if+you+care+swedish+sponge&qid=1695088446&sprefix=if+you+care+swe%2Caps%2C143&sr=8-7
- Makeshift double boiler saucepans(one inside the other)
 - Double boiler makes it easier to manage the temperature for smaller batch size
- Heat source(electric or gas)
- Liquid thermometer or laser pointer gun
- Plastic bucket or tub to mix sponges with solution
- Cooktop
- Nitrile gloves
- Quart size zip log bags

Procedure

1. Cut towels lengthwise. Each towel will be 8”x3.5”
2. Soak towels in water and let dry overnight
 - a. *This will make the sponge more evenly absorb material*
3. Add 200ml(250 grams) vegetable glycerin to pan

4. add 250 grams oxalic acid powder to pan
5. Heat and stir continuously mixture to about 150 degrees for about 7 minutes. Do not let it go above 170 degrees. Mixture should become clear.
6. Place sponges into tub/bucket and pour solution over sponges.
7. Massage sponges with nitrile glove on
8. Flip sponges after about 5 minutes to ensure fully saturated
9. Place sponges on a rack to dry for xyz hours
10. Place sponges into ziplock bag. They can last up to a couple months.