



As well as Sacbrood –there are at least 10 other viruses that have been noted in BC
.Deformed wing Virus –DWV is especially vectored in by varroa and is indicative of a severe varroa load .

Sacbrood is spread through the glandular secretions of nurse bees and by foragers
Shiny black bees often indicate a viral infection

Kashmir bee virus

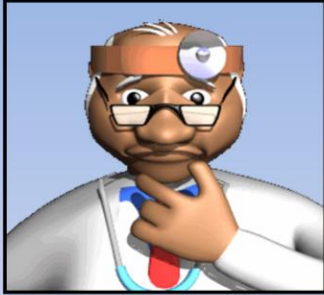


- **SBV or Sacbrood Virus:**
- Often appears during spring or colony buildup and causes larval death.
- The pupa fails to pupate and has a shrunken head.
- Infected adult bees will have decreased life spans.
- Spread through feeding young larvae
- Nurse bees become infected with the virus while cleaning out cells containing diseased larvae.
- Virus may remain viable in dead larvae, honey or pollen for 4 to 8 weeks.
- The spread of SBV from hive to hive is attributed to the exchange of contaminated equipment or bees, or natural causes such as bees robbing or drifting from hive to hive.
- Hives rarely die as a direct result of SBV, but they can be weakened and succumb to other pathogens.

Signs of SBV:

- Spotty brood pattern
- Poor production
- Not ropey
- Perforated cappings in the sealed brood nest with the infected larvae inside; the perforation is often choppy or jagged
- Larvae in a liquidy sac (tiny unformed head)
- Infected larvae change in color from pearly white to pale yellow, and shortly after death they dry out, forming a dark brown almost black scale that adheres loosely to the cell (re: AFB).





1. Requeen with resistant stock
2. Nutrition
3. Add capped brood frames from strong hives
4. Swarms – caution. Sometimes it's smart to look a gift horse in the mouth
5. Use caution when moving/swapping bees and equipment
6. Prevent robbing
7. Never leave used equipment around for foraging bees to access
8. "Some say" store hive equipment for 8 weeks then re-use.
9. Use hygienic practices. E.g. visit suspect hives last, clean tools, etc..

