



# MIGRATORY PEST CONTROL MANAGEMENT: LOCUST CONTROL

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

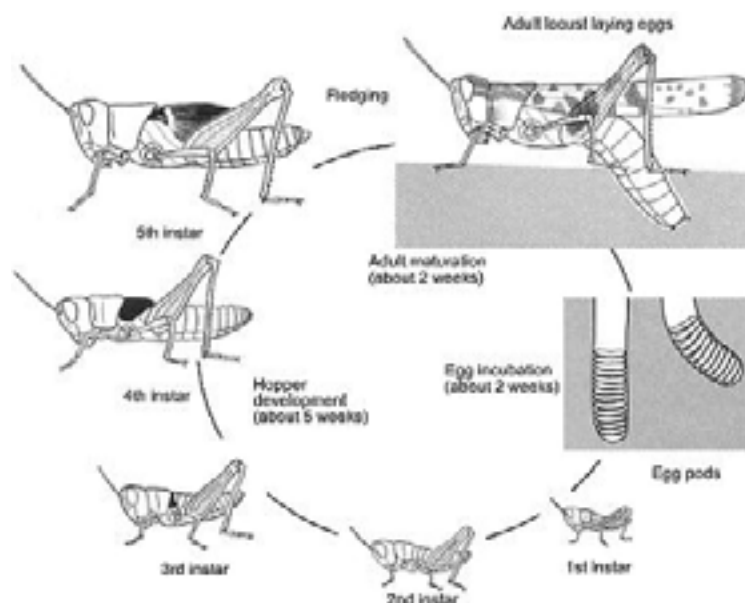
### 1. Background

- The endemic outbreak area of the brown locust namely the Karoo covers an area of 270 484 km<sup>2</sup>.
- This area represents 32% of the republic of South Africa.
- Locusts prefer grass by preference before shrubs.
- However, when these become scarce, they migrate and attack crops in irrigation areas like maize and wheat.
- Before 1906 mechanical and cultural control methods such as trampling, beating, burning pastures, digging up egg beds, were used to control locusts.



### 2. The Locust Life-cycle

- Locusts lay their eggs on the ground.
- They can lay up to 380 eggs per season per locust.
- When conditions are suitable, meaning good rain of at least 10mm and warm temperature, the eggs can hatch within two weeks or 10 days.





- In the first developmental phase, the locust is black in colour. In the second and third instar, the colour of the locust will change to red. They are commonly known to locals as “Rooibaadjies”.
- In the 4th and 5th instar the locust starts to develop wings, but are unable to fly.
- They are fully developed at the 6th stage and are able to fly.
- **It takes 78 days for the locust to reach the adult stage.**
- During stages 1-5, the locusts are referred to as hoppers. Hoppers are easy to control as they are less likely to migrate as they are still unable to fly.
- Adult swarms can migrate quickly from one area to another.

### 3. Locust Control Methods

- Aerial Spraying
- Knapsack Spraying
- Pick-up truck (“Bakkie”) Mounted Spraying

#### The department provides the contractors with:

- Registered insecticides (ULV-Esfenvalerate (Pyrethroid) trading as Sumi-Alpha ULV/Powder & Decis (deltamethrin ULV) ULV – Ultra Low Volume).
- Protective clothing.
- Spraying equipment.



**NB: Locust Control personnel must have access to properties or farms where locusts are sighted. Currently, locust control in National Parks are prohibited.**

### 4. What are the licensed pesticides that can be used to control locust infestation?

- Visit the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development for the “*Policy for managing the locust problem in South Africa*” and listed pesticides. (<https://www.nda.agric.za/docs/locustpolicy/locust.htm>)

### 5. What do you need to take note of when spraying to control locusts?

- Locusts are easiest to control during the 4th and 5th instar (developmental phase), when they are unable to fly.
- Use licensed pesticides for control. Read the “*Policy for managing the locust problem in South Africa*” for the list of pesticides for control of locusts.
- Apply pesticides responsibly. Please note that farmers must only apply approved pesticides at the application dosage rates recommended on the product label.
- Wind direction must be taken into account when planning to control locusts swarms with pesticides.



## 6. How to report locust sighting

- **National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:**

Vuyokazi Jongwana, Tel: 053 631 3621, E-mail: [vuyok@dalrrd.gov.za](mailto:vuyok@dalrrd.gov.za)

- **Western Cape Department of Agriculture:**

For area specific locust reporting and control measures, please contact your nearest Western Cape Department of Agriculture District Office.



No.	District	Contact Person	Address	Contact Number	Email
1	Central Karoo District	Ms Phyllis Pienaar	1 Pieter Jacobs Avenue, Beaufort West, 6970	083 649 9306	<a href="mailto:PhyllisP@elsenburg.com">PhyllisP@elsenburg.com</a>
2	Garden Route District	Mr Hannes Muller	Main Building, Outeniqua Research Farm, Old Airport Road, George, 6530	044 803 3720	<a href="mailto:HannesM@elsenburg.com">HannesM@elsenburg.com</a>
3	Overberg District	Mr Grant Jephthas	Old Albert Myburgh Hostel, Golf Street, Bredasdorp, 7280	028 425 4826	<a href="mailto:GrantJ@elsenburg.com">GrantJ@elsenburg.com</a>
4	Cape Winelands District	Mr Rudolph Roscher	Wellington Centre, Church Street, Wellington, 7655	021 808 7820	<a href="mailto:RudolphR@elsenburg.com">RudolphR@elsenburg.com</a>
5	West Coast District	Mr Jan Smit	42 Long Street, Moorreesburg, 7310	022 433 8902	<a href="mailto:JanS@elsenburg.com">JanS@elsenburg.com</a>



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