

Plague Locust Assessment Card

Species information

Notifiable pest insects:
CT: <i>Chortoicetes terminifera</i> Australian plague locust (Red shanks on hind legs, dark spot on hind wing tip, X on top of thorax)
AG: <i>Austracris guttulosa</i> Spur-throated locust (Large size, long body, predominantly grey, clear hind wing, throat peg, light stripe along top of head and thorax, hind shanks pink-mauve coloured and spined)
LM: <i>Locusta migratoria</i> Migratory locust (Larger than plague locust, dark mouth and hairy underside of "chest", clear hind wing, hind shanks straw-wine red coloured)
0 5 10 15 20 25 mm  0 ¼ ½ ¾ 1 Inch  (approximately to scale only)

Visual Square

Use card at arm's length, visual square equates to approx 1 metre² at a distance of 10 metres.

Stage of development

Stage & approx size:		Wing buds
1.	1 st instar 4mm	
2.	2 nd instar 6-7mm	
3.	3 rd instar 8-11mm	Just appearing
4.	4 th instar 12-15mm	Developing
5.	5 th instar 16-22mm	Wing buds obvious
6.	Fledgling 25mm	Soft wings
7.	Adult 30mm	Hard wings
8.	Adult with fat	
9.	Adult with eggs	
10.	Laying adult	
11.	Eggbed	

Locust Density:

Adults	Code	No/m ²	No/250m ^{**}
Isolated	ISO	< 0.02	1 – 5
Scattered	SCAT	0.02 – 0.1	6 – 25
Numerous (low)	NUML	0.1 – 0.2	26 – 50
Numerous (high)	NUMH	0.2 – 0.5	51 – 125
Concentration	CONC	0.5 – 3	126 – 750
Low density swarm	LDS	4 – 10	>750
Medium density swarm	MDS	11 – 50	
High density swarm	HDS	> 50	

**** Determined by a 1 metre wide triangular foot traverse walking 100m out, 50m across & 100m back**

Nymphs	Code	No/m ²	
Present	P	1 – 5	
Numerous	NUM	6 – 30	
Sub band	SB	31 – 80	
Band	B	81 – 500	
Dense band	DB	> 500	

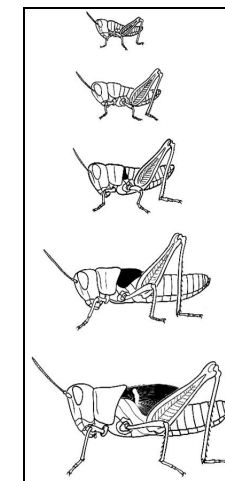
Egg Development – pull the locust apart:

Nil/Undeveloped	Impossible to see
Partly developed	1 – 3 mm long
Fully developed	4 – 5 mm long (yellow bunch of rice)

Fat scoring – pull the locust apart:

S	Post fledging, body soft or semi-hard at sides
0	None – no detectable fat
1	Yellow strands on white background
2	Yellow band with white patches
3	Continuous yellow band

Ct nymph stages 1-5 showing wing buds
(see Stage & approx size table)



Other species (refer to the APLC Locust and Grasshopper Identification Guide)

AT: <i>Aiolopus thalassinus</i>	BM: <i>Bermius</i> species	CC: <i>Caledia captiva</i>
OA: Eastern plague grasshopper (<i>Oedaleus</i> sp.)	VS: Giant (hedge) grasshopper (<i>Valanga</i> species)	HO: <i>Heteropternis obscurella</i>
PS: <i>Peakesia</i> species	AC: Small plague grasshopper & other <i>Austroicetes</i> species	UG: <i>Umsia guttulosa</i>
GM: Yellow-winged locust (<i>Gastrimargus musicus</i>)	PV: Wingless grasshopper (<i>Phaulacridium vittatum</i>)	OS: Other species/unknown

Locust information

Locust activity:		
Hatching	Sub band	Banding
Banded, marching	Test flight (fledging)	Light flight
Flying	Swarming	Mating
Test boring	Laying	
Where appropriate, add: Damaging crops/pastures/etc		