



# Brown locust (*Locustana pardalina*)



Figure 1: *Locustana pardalina* Photo by: Piotr Naskrecki

The brown locust in South Africa becomes a major agricultural pest when there are sporadic outbreaks because of conducive climatic conditions. These outbreaks are characterised by their unpredictable distribution and intensity of hatching. The brown locust is well adapted to the semi-arid Karoo environment and attacks mainly veld, cereals and pastures.

## IDENTIFICATION

Locusts usually move by walking or jumping, but most adults fly.

### Migratory form

- Body length of 41–51 mm
- Changing colour from yellowish grey to yellow when sexually mature.

### Solitary form

- Body length of about 26–36 mm
- Adults are green, mottled with brown and black.



Figure 2: Source Wikimedia Commons



Figure 3: Source Farmers Weekly Archive

## HABITAT

- Areas with short grass and Karoid shrubland with bare soil patches
- Soil with sufficient moisture in which to lay eggs



## CONTROL

The control of migratory locusts is governed by the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983), which is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The DALRRD has the responsibility to control migratory locusts, however, it remains the responsibility of landowners to report any outbreaks and to assist with control operations.

## PROTOCOL TO FOLLOW WHEN THERE IS AN OUTBREAK

- The aim is to control the locust outbreak soon after hatching of individuals or when the locusts are still in the so-called hopper stage and to prevent the development of flying swarms.
- Any person who notices locust outbreaks on their farms or in their area should supply location information and photos of the outbreak to the CropLife SA emergency number via WhatsApp.
- The Locust Office, local agricultural departments, regional locust control officers and resource conservation centres must also be informed.

**Contact numbers** CropLife SA Emergency Number | 082 446 8946  
Locust Office | 053 631 3122/3621



## SOURCES:

SANBI: <https://www.sanbi.org/animal-of-the-week/brown-locust/>  
Croplife SA press release dated 21 February 2020

## CONTACT DETAILS

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