

LOCUST: Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

Facts and Notes

Schistocerca gregaria, more often known as the desert locust, is a species of migratory insect pest that lives throughout the tropics and subtropics regions during the entire year. There are more than a dozen different species of short-horned grasshoppers (*Acridoidea*) that are known to change their behavior and either form swarms of adults or bands of hoppers (wingless nymphs). This grasshopper is one of those species. The swarms that form can be extremely mobile and dense at the same time. It travels and flies over the African continent and throughout West Asia and in the Middle East according to the wind and the changing of the seasons. The desert locust causes damage to the plant's stems as well as its leaves.

Locust damaging in the plants



Pest Control procedures in managing the pest

1. Monitor the early warning indicators for prevention and control and the appropriate period based on the pest's migration, occurrence location, and population density.
2. Implement IPM-guided essential control, starting with alternative methods:
 - **Cultural Control** – Valuable shrubs and plantings can be protected with insect mesh or shade cloth — this must not be green-coloured, as locusts are attracted to green areas.
 - **Mechanical Control** – Small numbers of locusts may best be controlled by catching and squashing them.
 - **Chemical Control** - If alternative methods fail, administer insecticides in a highly diluted mixture to the affected area in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer. Approved pesticide like Decis 100EC- *Deltamethrin 10%* (WHO Class: II, Reg. No.: 60-10038-2892) can be applied.
3. Monitor the plants condition after the treatment. It is recommended to keep record for future evaluation.

What you can do to prevent Locust in your garden

- Cover your valuable plants by insect mesh or shade cloth — this must not be green-coloured, as locusts are attracted to green areas.
- Cooperate with the service provider during treatment activities by keeping yourself and your pets in a safe place.
- Report sightings or request assistance by contacting the Horticulture and Pest Control Department or via C&C Call center by calling 959 from any landline.