

Situation Update

North East Australian Plague Locusts

The information contained in this update was correct when it was prepared
at 12 pm 18 November 2008

Situation as at 12 pm Tuesday 18 November 2008

A total of 491 sightings have been confirmed as having Australian Plague Locusts.

Recent rainfalls may lead to an increase in grass and weed growth. This may provide an additional food source, allowing locusts to increase their body fat, resulting in increased potential for egg laying.

Locusts are starting to fly and may begin laying another generation of eggs that could begin hatching in mid-December. This is a very visible phase of their lifecycle and may be the first time many northern Victorians will have seen locusts this spring.

DPI encourages vigilance to look out for egg laying locusts to determine where any new infestations may start and report to the Locust Hotline on 1300 13 5559.

Landholders from all areas of Victoria are encouraged to take suspected locust samples to their local DPI centre. Staff there will arrange the identification of samples by an entomologist.

DPI Victoria remains in regular contact with the Australian Plague Locust Commission and DPI New South Wales in relation to the likelihood of flying locusts crossing the border into Victoria.

APL occur naturally and cannot ever be completely eradicated - despite the best combined efforts of the DPI, landholders and the community to control the outbreak.

Last 24 hours

Field teams are visiting sites in Kotupna, Beechworth, Shepparton, Barnawatha, Tarnook and Yarrawonga, Benalla, Yarraweyah, Rutherglen, Picola, Nathalia, Colbinabbin; and undertaking surveillance along the New South Wales border from Yarrawonga to Rutherglen.

Twenty-three new (unconfirmed APL) sightings were reported in Campaspe, Greater Bendigo, Greater Shepparton, Moira, Strathbogie and Towong.

Strategic surveillance activities have taken place in all parts of the primary zone and in some areas outside of the primary zone.

The Incident Management Team provides weekly maps to local governments with confirmed roadside sightings. The Campaspe, Shepparton, Benalla, Wangaratta and Moira Shires have all responded positively to undertaking control operations.

To report sightings of Locusts, contact the Locust Hotline on **1300 13 5559**.

More information is available on the DPI website: www.dpi.vic.gov.au.

Media Enquiries: 5824 5563.

This information is provided by the Department of Primary Industries. Controlling Australian Plague Locusts is a partnership between the Australian Plague Locust Commission (with all State and Commonwealth representatives), the Victorian Government, public and private landholders and the Victorian community.



Department of Primary Industries, Victoria

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Safety Messages

Motorists, please note that field teams will be working on roadsides in Northern Victoria.

Flying locusts may constitute a driving hazard for motorists.

A motor safety fact sheet is available on the DPI website at www.dpi.vic.gov.au.

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