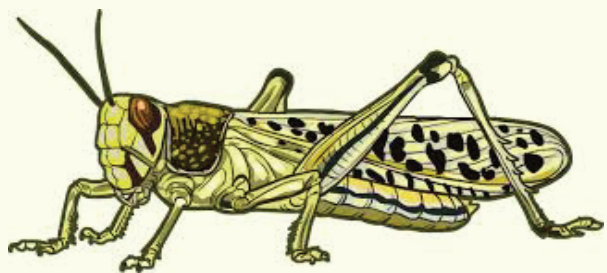




DESERT LOCUST FACT SHEET

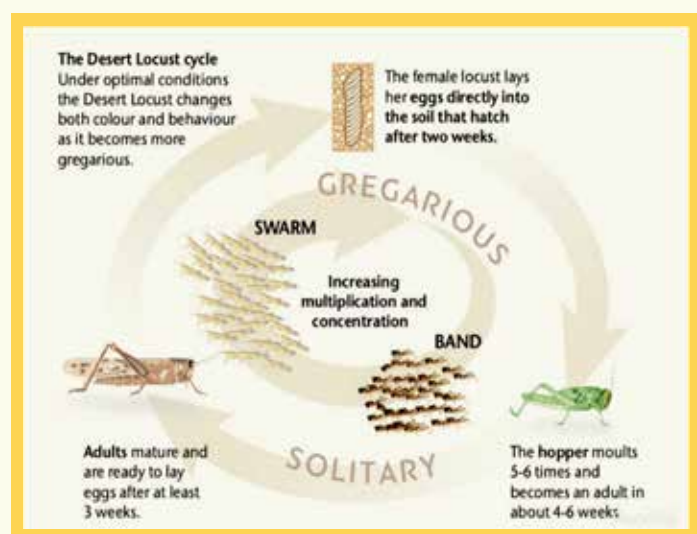
IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER

Adult females lay around 80 eggs in an egg pod in the soil. Females can lay at least three times in their lifetime usually at intervals of about 6-11 days – **this means we are very likely to see further outbreaks over the coming weeks so we must remain vigilant.**



Areas to focus intense monitoring are:

- The greater northern region districts of Karamoja and Teso
- Along the path that any other swarm takes
- Mature swarms reached Ugandan territory (Amudat district) on 6th February 2020.



Let the Government know

If you spot the desert locusts in your community please call Toll free on **0800 177 777** to report the desert locusts invasion

LIFE CYCLE:

- A desert locust lives about three to five months.
- The life cycle comprises three stages: egg, hopper (nymph) and adult
- Eggs hatch in about two weeks.
- Hoppers shed their skins five or six times, each time growing in size.
- Hoppers develop over a period of about 30-40 days.
- Adults mature in about three weeks to nine months but more frequently from 2 to 4 months, depending on environmental conditions, mainly temperature.
- An adult locust can eat its own body weight every day, about 2.5g. Adults that can fly are initially sexually immature, but eventually become sexually mature and can copulate and lay eggs.
- Solitary individuals always remain somewhere in the environment, ready to mate when conditions are favorable

IMPACT:

Locust outbreaks are a natural phenomenon – they respond to abundant rainfall and resulting vegetation and therefore they play an important part in the ecosystem which we must not forget. **Their impact is realized when they significantly affect livestock fodder banks or crops;**

- 1). A 1 km² size swarm contains about 40 million locusts, which eat the same amount of food in one day as about 35,000 people, 20 camels or 6 elephants.
- 2). The biggest risk is if the swarm enters agricultural land where crops will be decimated.
- 3). The current impact is on possible grazing / fodder for livestock and wildlife. Thankfully the recent abundant rains have provided plenty of fodder so at this stage the impact of the locusts is minimal and to date has been contained. The big fear is a "**plague**" – this is a vast number of locusts with unstoppable consequences.
- 4). An adult swarm can travel between 50 and over 100kms per day.
- 5). Swarms gather at night and roost together within trees and bushes. They fly again in the morning when the sun warms them.
- 6). Their movement is guided by wind patterns and vegetation availability – in our case we can therefore expect them to move South West.
- 7). The hopper stages move less – they cannot fly and therefore are limited to around 200 meters of movement per day.