

Women's Health Loddon Mallee is a member of the  
Northern Region Rural Women Leading Change group.

One of the first activities was to organize an information session in Ouyen for women about how to respond to Locusts.



If you see locusts.....

..... notes from a women's gathering in Ouyen

The main points from the discussion that was held as the presentation was delivered are:

- Harder soils stimulate egg laying.
- Locusts love clay soil
- Locusts can lay eggs four times a year
- They eat half of their body weight each day
- If food runs out, they become cannibalistic and will eat each other
- The DPI response is about mitigation, not elimination, as it will be virtually impossible to guarantee that every locust hatching will be killed
- Check the Australian Plague Locust Commission website to see the locust risk zones [www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/locusts](http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/locusts) or contact them on 1800635962
- Locust sightings need to be reported if there are at least 50 locusts per square meter
- Locusts have to be sprayed if there are at least 80 locusts per square meter
- One area had 10,000 eggs per m<sup>2</sup> but only 60% were viable
- Soil activity may affect egg bed mortality eg ants, mice, birds etc can eat locust eggs
- Need a soil temperature of 18 – 20 degrees and some soil moisture before the locusts will hatch out
- If you are worried about locusts on your vegie garden or roses etc, throw a net curtain over them. As long as it is not green, the locusts will avoid it
- Let DPI know if you are going away and you are worried about locusts hatching on your property when you are away
- Locusts can hatch up through water
- Hatched locusts are only 2 – 3 mm long
- To avoid making a mess of your car, drive at 20kph if it is safe to do so
- Avoid driving through locust swarms if you can
- Be prepared if you do have to drive. Take extra water and window cleaner with you to clean the windscreens
- Keep up to date with locust information by visiting the DPI website on [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts) or call 1300135559



Information collated by

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