

Zimbabwe Locust Update Report

**Southern Africa Emergency Locust Response and Preparedness (SAELORP) Project
TCP/SFS/3801, SFERA and CERF**

18 March 2021

Shingirayi Nyamutukwa

National Focal Point



Locusts identified



Ruspolia differens



Cytacanthacris sp.



Cataloipus oberthuri

Damage on crops



Province/District	Ward	Cereal crop	Area affected	Comment
Masvingo/Chiredzi	6	Sorghum and pearl millet	1530 ha affected	Many farmers handpick the locusts , only a few farmers do chemical control. Handpicking is done during the night though not all farmers are able to buy torches. Only few farmers afford to buy chemicals. -Some varieties are very tall making spraying difficulty. Armoured cricketal and R. differens
	7	Sorghum and Pearlmillet	1608 ha,% yield reduction 23%	They are not easy to spray because of the height of the sorghum They invade in huge numbers making it hard to control
	8	Sorghum	1500 ha affected,%yield reduction 30%	R. differens which is picked by hand by farmers
	1,2,3,4,5,9,10,11,12	Sorghum	325 ha affected, %Yield reduction 35%	Farmers prefer hand picking than chemical control. Pests tend to fly away when sprayed. Hand picking of locust is effective at night using torches and early in the morning when they are still inactive. Armoured crickets are picked anytime. The total area planted affected by the locusts in the district is still being assessed
		Pearl millet	3ha , Yield reduction 3%	
		Beans	1.2 ha, yield reduction 12%	
		Maize	120ha, yield reduction 18%	
	22	Sorghum,	2200ha	The farmers hand pick the locusts while others who can afford use pesticides. Agrictex is still getting more information on the percentage of crop damaged
		Pearlmillet	5ha	
		Maize	300ha	
Cowpeas		15ha		
Masvingo/Mwenezi	13	Sorghum	95 ha. %yield reduction 90 %	Three types of locust species were identified in the area, Ruspolia differens, the Cytacanthacris (green locusts) and the Cataloipus oberthuli The farmers handpick the locusts during the night using torches.Most of the farmers do not have access to pesticides so they resort to handpicking.
		Pearl millet	56 ha %yield reduction 92%.	
	15	Sorghum Maize Pastures	95 ha	Ruspolia differens, Elegant grasshoppers and armoured crickets caused damage on the crops. No pesticides were used in control and control was mainly harvesting R. differens for consumption and crushing elegant grasshoppers and armoured crickets.

Manicaland/Chisumbanje	Surgacane	Less than 5% damage	<i>Cataloipus oberthuri</i> and <i>Cyrtacanthacris</i> sp found migrating into sugarcane just established) from surrounding undisturbed pastures.
Checheche	Pastures		The species of locust found mainly belong to <i>Oedelus</i> genera
Save valley and Malilangwe conservancy	Pastures		Locust densities below 3 per m ² observed

Locust Management

- Fenvalerate/ Fencure,
- Carbaryl 85%WP,
- Nemesis,
- Lambda,
- Demise and
- Acephate.





Challenges

Lack of sprayers, PPEs, chemicals for use in control

Difficult in using knapsack sprayers in tall varieties of sorghum crops.

Day sprays are difficult as locusts would fly away resulting in poor control.

Plant Protection Research Institute

- Supplied 10 knapsack sprayers and chemicals in Chiredzi to be used by AGRITEX in assisting communities control the locusts.
- Surveillance is still ongoing
- dispatching three teams with chemicals and knapsacks to the affected areas so that they reinforce control operations in containing the locusts upsurge.

Media alert



JUST IN: Zim faces locust invasion

The Plant Protection Resear...
www.herald.co.zw

<https://www.herald.co.zw/just-in-zim-faces-locust-invasion/>

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It never rains but pours for Chilonga villagers in Chiredzi, who after being threatened with eviction to pave way for a lucerne production project, also face hunger after their grain crops were destroyed by locusts over the past three weeks

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