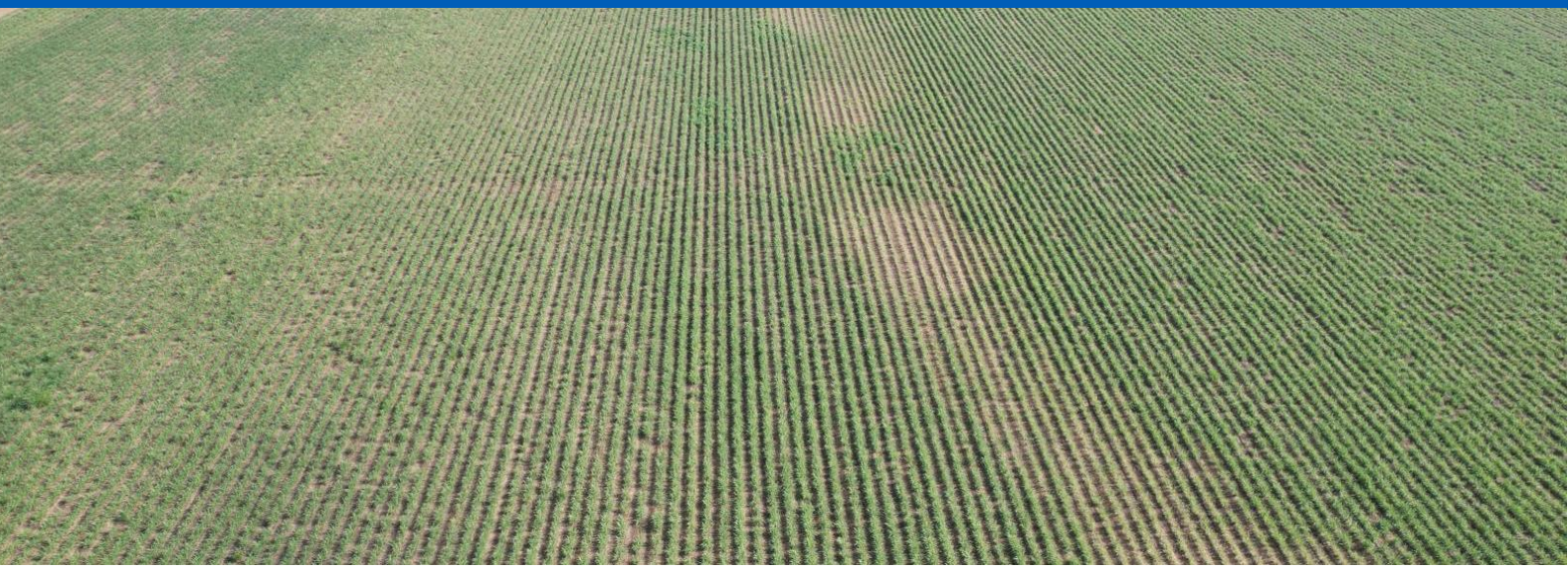
DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND

Locusts outbreaks in Queensland sugarcane regions



The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has extended its locust response to include sugarcane growing regions along the Queensland coast. This follows outbreaks on grazing properties in western and north-western Queensland.

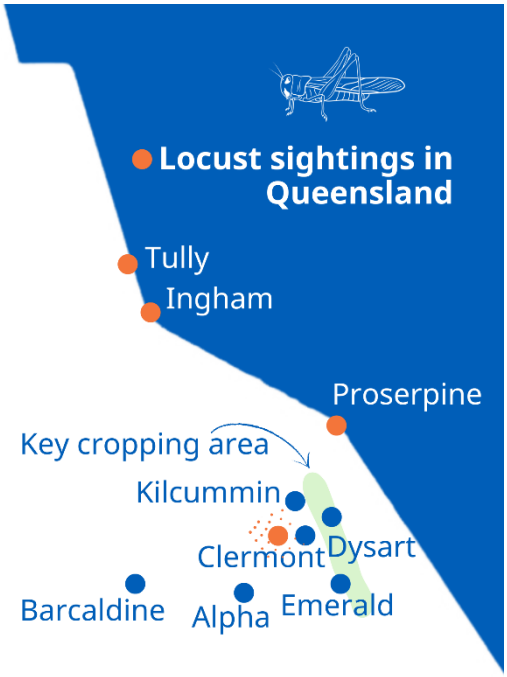
Control options for locusts in sugarcane are currently limited, as no registered products are available for use. DPI is actively monitoring the situation and providing information to the cane industry to support their decision on whether to apply for an Emergency Use Permit (EUP) through the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

Current situation

Formal reports have been received from sugarcane growers from Tully to Proserpine. Additional unconfirmed reports have been noted via sugar industry representatives and agronomists.

Locusts are not widespread across sugarcane growing areas; however, locust nymphs are appearing in small dense patches in paddocks on properties.

View up-to-date locust activity reports at locust activity dashboard.



Key facts for sugarcane growers

- Significant locust outbreaks in sugarcane growing areas are rare, and crops often recover fully with minimal long-term economic impact.
- Migratory locusts are a native species typically present in low numbers.

- Favourable environmental conditions have created optimal breeding opportunities due to a wet summer and autumn of 2025, a mild winter and sporadic rainfall.
- Current populations in Tully, Herbert, and Proserpine regions are likely the result of local breeding over several generations.

Management and control

No insecticides are currently registered specifically for migratory locust control in sugarcane crops. Products containing fipronil are registered for use on pastures and can be applied to adjacent grassed areas, provided buffer zone requirements are met and label directions are followed.

Cultivating the soil can expose locust eggs to the surface, where they may be eaten by predators like ants or desiccated by sunlight. Tilling in areas where locusts have laid eggs can disrupt their life cycle and prevent the emergence of the next generation.

DPI will support the sugarcane industry if an EUP application is required through the APVMA.

Resources for growers

DPI has developed a communications toolkit to assist growers and will continue to work closely with growers and sugarcane industry representatives to monitor and manage the situation.

Importance of reporting

DPI strongly encourages all landholders to report locust activity. This information is critical for:

- monitoring locust abundance and distribution
- assessing the potential risk of economic damage
- assisting the sugar industry in determining whether an Emergency Use Permit (EUP) application for insecticide use is necessary.

How to report locust activity

Report any nymph or swarm activity immediately to DPI using one of the following methods:

- Complete the online form
- Email: locustreports@dpi.qld.gov.au
- Phone: 13 25 23
- Report online or offline through Survey123

All reports will be followed up by the DPI locust response team.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact DPI for assistance on 13 25 23 or by visiting our website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au

By acting early and working collaboratively, together DPI and landholders can effectively manage locust activity, protect properties, and safeguard Queensland's agricultural productivity.