



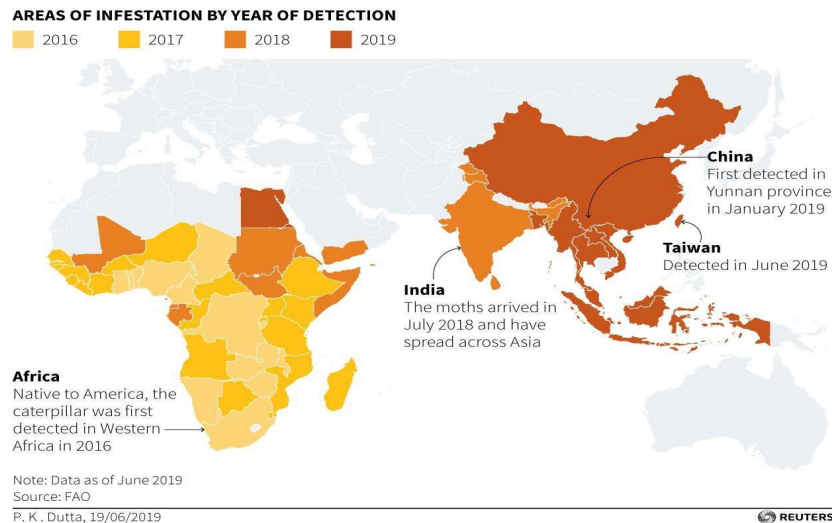
Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

# Fall Armyworm in Western Australia



# Fall armyworm

- **Spodoptera frugiperda**
- Native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas.
- Since 2016 has rapidly spread to and throughout Africa, the Indian subcontinent, China and Southeast Asia.
- Spread by people
- Adults can fly long distances



# Current situation

- January: First detection of fall armyworm in the Torres Strait, on the islands of Saibai and Erub
- Mid-February: Bamaga on the tip of Cape York, Queensland.
- Late-February: northwest Queensland. Larvae and moths collected from an infested crop.
- March: Lakeland, Tolga, South Johnstone
- Late-March: Darwin, Katherine and Douglas Daly, NT
- April – confirmed in Kununurra, WA





## Australia's response



- Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) met on 24 February 2020
- Fall armyworm is not technically feasible to eradicate— National Management Group decision

# What it eats

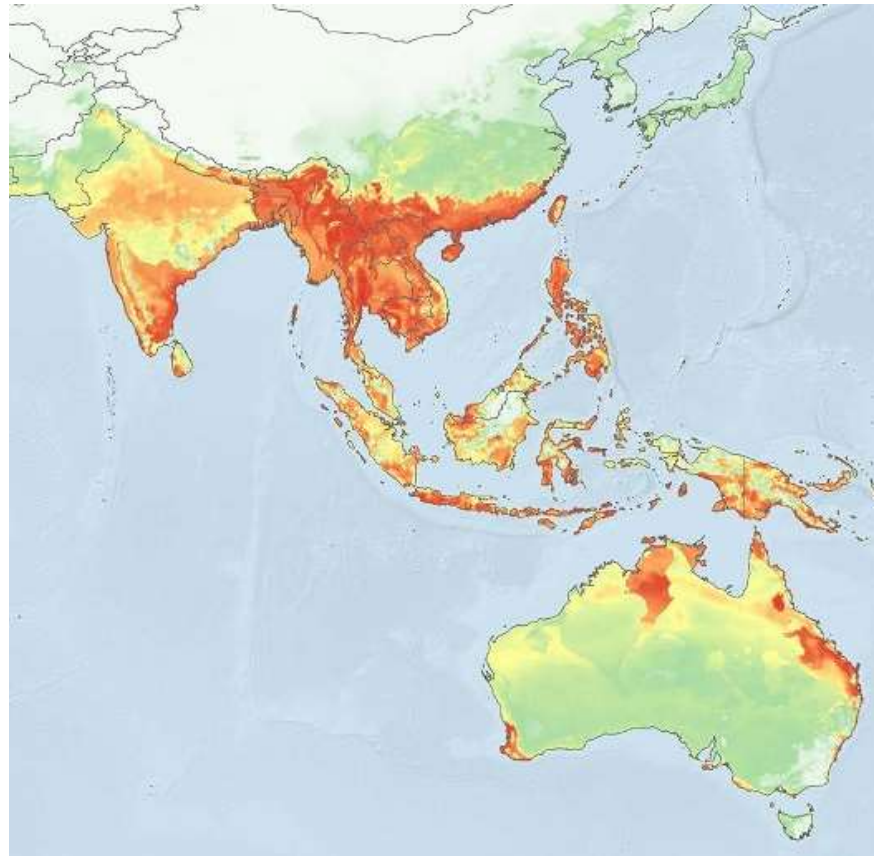
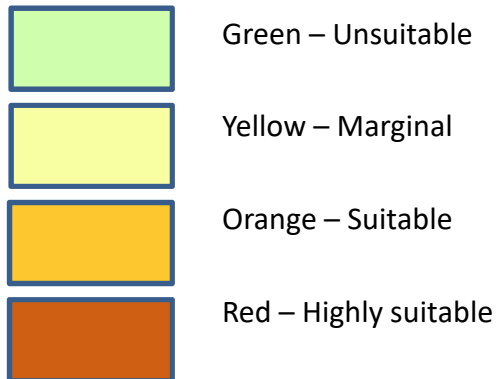
- Known to feed on more than 350 plant species
- Major cultivated crops including maize, rice, sugarcane, wheat, sorghum, pasture grasses, legumes, vegetable crops and cotton
- Will also feed on native plants and weeds
- Voracious – in large numbers can completely defoliate and are extremely detrimental to crop survival and yield
- Causes significant losses overseas



# Fall Armyworm in Australia

- Australia's conditions are favourable for this pest to establish and spread
- We have a suitable climate and access to hosts

## Environmental suitability



# Overview of presentations

- How to identify fall armyworm
- Trapping and monitoring
- Management options



# Thank you

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## **Important disclaimer**

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