# Fall armyworm

* Fall armyworm is a serious agricultural pest that has recently established in several parts of Australia following natural spread.
* The adult moth can fly long distances and its migration rate is remarkably fast.
* While this pest is native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas, since 2016 it has rapidly spread to and throughout Africa, the Indian subcontinent, China, Southeast Asia and has now arrived in Australia.
* It is known to feed on more than 350 plant species and has caused significant economic losses overseas.
* The larvae or caterpillar stage of the moth’s lifecycle can damage and destroy a wide variety of crops.
* This includes many of Australia’s most valuable crops, such as cotton, barley, maize, sorghum, sugar cane, wheat, and some vegetables and fruit.
* If infestation levels are high, the destruction of crops can happen rapidly.
* It also has the potential to impact on our native and garden plants, so it can be a serious problem in our parks, backyard gardens and the environment.
* Australia has established systems to respond to new fall armyworm detections, and our import conditions and measures at the border help manage any new risk.
* But support from the public, farmers and industry is also vital.
* Keep an eye out and report any suspect fall armyworm or infected plants in your region, and make sure you follow our conditions when travelling to Australia or importing goods.

(TEXT AT THE END: Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment)