

THE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

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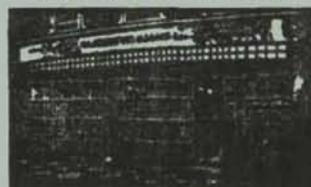
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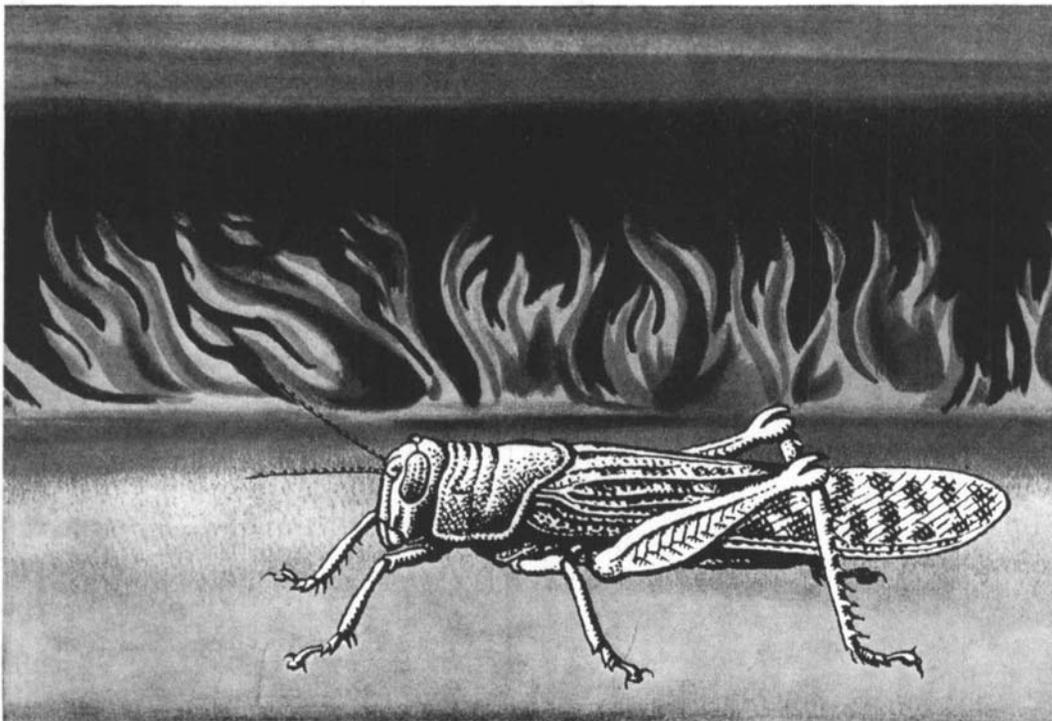
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Flame in the far desert

Today, a spreading yellow stain: advancing, enlarging, flowing together, smouldering under the desert sun. Tomorrow—if not extinguished—a searing, consuming flame, flying on the breast of the wind, fiercer by far than the ever-burning fires of Baba Gurgur in Irak, a plague borne on a thousand million wings.

From time immemorial, the Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria* FORSK.) has scourged, year by year, a vast sweep of Africa and Asia. Through bitter centuries, men of many tongues have watched helplessly and without hope as the greenness was stripped from the earth.

Today the battle is being fought on more equal terms—and with mounting success. By international co-operation. By swift action based on shared information and intelligence. By the use of the most advanced and powerful insecticides science has to offer, such as aldrin and dieldrin, developed by Shell.

Aldrin, spread before the advancing, wingless hoppers, has been used successfully in many locust-infested areas of the world. Now, dieldrin—most

persistent and versatile of modern insecticides—is being employed in a new technique which reduces both transportation and handling costs. Applied at extremely low application rates as a vegetation drift spray through a simple attachment to the exhaust pipe of a light vehicle, it has obtained high kills over periods of up to 36 days or more after only one treatment. Dieldrin retains its toxicity over long periods: this important Shell insecticide can wait for the fire to reach it to be extinguished.

dieldrin

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