

EGG-LAYING HABITS.

All our injurious locusts deposit their eggs in masses and place them in the soil surrounded by a coating of frothy material which hardens into a protective covering known as a pod or sac. (See figs. 2 and 3.)



FIG. 2. Locust laying eggs. (After Gibson and Criddle.)

When preparing to oviposit, the locust forces her abdomen into the soil almost up to the base of the hind-legs; she then slowly places the eggs in position and encases them in the covering as she proceeds. When completed the egg masses reach almost to the surface of the ground and extend at their further extremity to a depth of about three-quarters of an inch into the soil. The number of eggs per pod varies according to the kind of grasshopper depositing them. Those of the *Pellucid* locust average 26; the *Lesser Migratory* locust generally produces 20. Each kind deposits two or more pods of eggs in a season, so that the total number of eggs laid by a single female often exceeds 50.



FIG. 3. Egg pods of locusts showing various shapes; pod at right open to show the closely packed eggs. (After Gibson and Criddle.)

BREEDING GROUNDS.

While the method of depositing eggs is the same for both insects discussed in this circular, it is important to know that there is a marked difference in the situations selected for that purpose. This has an important bearing on the control methods which are discussed later. For instance, the *Lesser Migratory* locust prefers the stubble-lands, old deserted weedy fields, or small bare openings amid sparse vegetation for egg-laying purposes; whereas the *Pellucid* locust selects the sodded land such as roadsides, grass fields, or pastures where she deposits her eggs chiefly in the clumps of grasses. It follows, therefore, that the greatest danger from the *Lesser Migratory* locust must be expected to come from stubble-fields or similar breeding areas, but that the *Pellucid*