

**Other Feed Taints**

Many other weeds can give taints in cream, for example, pennyroyal, camomile, sweet vernal, and water cress. Control measures on the farm should be based on the methods advocated for cress.

Unfortunately, certain plants of vital importance in a sward, more particularly the clovers, can in certain circumstances give just as much trouble as weeds. The chief offenders are subterranean clover, suckling clover, and white clover, in that order of import-

ance. Trouble is usually experienced when a pasture contains a high percentage of one or more of these clovers, especially in the period of their rapid growth and before the pasture has had a chance to harden off. Such clovery pastures usually follow close grazing in late autumn and winter, and control measures to be adopted are similar to those advocated for cress.

Winter spelling of pastures will encourage grassy rather than clovery swards, thus helping to ensure a better quality cream. Also, controlled

grazing of clover swards with a run-off into a grassy paddock three or four hours before milking, gives far better taint control than is obtained when adopting such measures with cress, and should be practised in all cases where a farmer is getting "feedy" cream.

Many farmers have a defeatist complex on the whole taint question, and are inclined to take the view that the trouble is just seasonal and is "just one of those things." This is definitely not the case, and examples can be quoted of many farmers who have made a material improvement in the grading of their cream by adopting the various measures suggested in this article.



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**Answers to Correspondents**

**Burning Out Stumps**

F.J.B. (WANGANUI):—

Will you please let me know whether you are aware of any treatment that can be applied to old macrocarpa stumps in order to burn them out?

FIELDS DIVISION:—

The idea that tough tree stumps can be treated with chemicals to make them burn easily or to rot them quickly has persisted for many years. It has often been stated that saltpetre put into large auger holes in such stumps will, after a few weeks, cause the stump to burn readily right into the ground, getting rid of the roots as well as the stump. Another suggestion is that strong acids, such as nitric or sulphuric acid, poured into auger holes will rapidly rot both green and dead stumps so that they will readily burn in a few weeks.

There is no foundation whatever in these statements. Careful trials with both acids and saltpetre have shown that the method is quite ineffective.

If explosives can be used without danger to buildings, etc., the burning out of tough stumps such as those referred to can be speeded up by using blasting powder or gelignite to loosen the ground under and round the stump and also to split and shatter the stump. By shattering the stump the fire can work much more freely and effectively, while the loose soil round the roots allows the fire to penetrate more deeply, thus getting rid of more of the roots than would otherwise be the case.

The use of explosives as stated is the only effective method which can be of assistance in burning out such stumps.