

TO WOOL AND SHEEPSKINS

stems (which are short in some grazed pastures, but may be 2ft. or more long where plants are protected or less palatable than the surrounding pasture), feather-shaped leaves 4in. to 18in. long, and a small purplish flower.

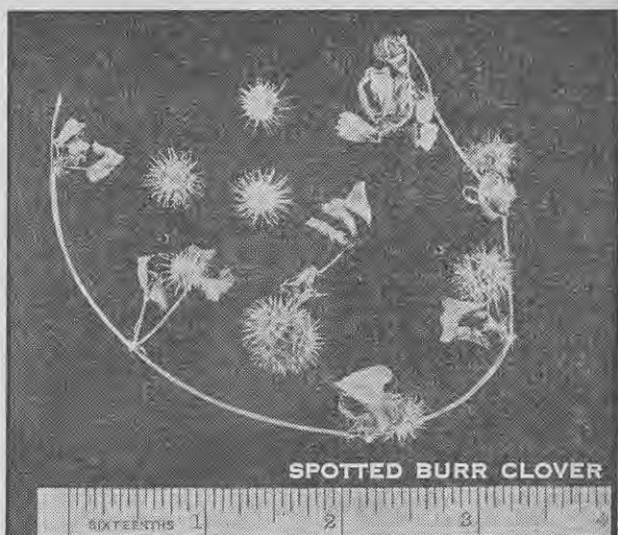
Drought Resistance

Though often regarded as a weed, *Erodium* is often considered a valuable constituent in pastures on light or dry sandy soils, where it may afford feed after other plants have perished in drought conditions. Because of its drought-resisting ability, *Erodium* is likely to become much more noticeable during seasons when drought conditions open up the sward. Knolls or crests under dry conditions, gateways where tramping has opened up the turf, or open flat pastures after a dry period are places where the entry of the weed may be first noted. Though it has been present for many years, the fact that stork's bill is at present conspicuous in many parts of Hawke's Bay may be attributed to three consecutive dry seasons, and as the plant appears to have thrived and spread in many areas, even to suburban parks and private lawns, it should be closely watched before shearing time. In particular attention is necessary in relation to lambs' wool, because last season wherever stork's bill seed was present in fleeces there was a considerable reduction in prices paid for lambs' wool.

On some properties stork's bill is used for fattening, but on others it appears to be less palatable to stock than the surrounding pasture and is thus left to grow and seed unchecked.

Seed Damage to Wool

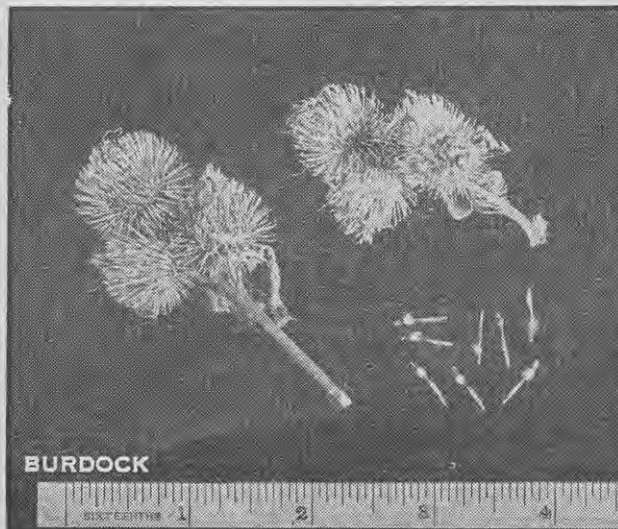
A heavy loss in wool values is attributable to the difficulties experienced by the woollen industry in removing *Erodium* seeds from the wool. The spiral awns work their way among the wool fibres and are stated to resist all the usual means employed, other than carbonising, for the removal of vegetable matter. (Carbonising involves treatment of the wool with dilute sulphuric acid and subsequent baking and dusting out of the remaining charcoal). Consequently many prospective buyers do not bid for *Erodium*-infested lines. Lambs' wool is affected most by the seed and where the specification of non-infested wool would be "average" to "good," infested wool would be classified as "inferior" and as a result would be worth, on the past season's market, at least 6d. a pound less, irrespective of the fact that these inferior grades are very much harder to dispose of and are the first lines to be affected by a falling market.



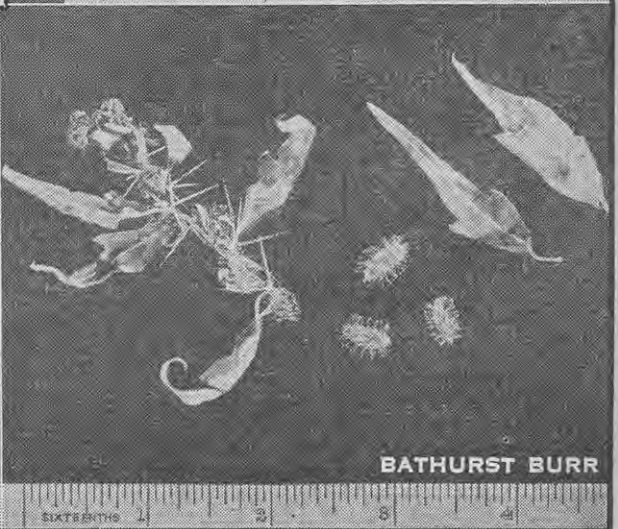
SPOTTED BURR CLOVER



SHEEP'S BURR



BURDOCK



BATHURST BURR