CONTROL OF TUTU

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Summary

Tutu (*Coraria* spp.) was killed by hand application of dicamba 10% granules. Further trials are indicated, using lower strength granules to give a better spread of the active ingredient.

INTRODUCTION

THE IMPORTANCE of tutu (*Coraria* spp.) as a weed has been accentuated by aerial topdressing, which encourages its spread, and also by the practice of increasing cattle numbers on Otago hill country, where tutu has always been a part of the flora. In certain areas grazing land is being lost because of invasion by tutu, and in these and other areas the risk of tutu poisoning to cattle is so high that the potential for beef production cannot be realized.

These considerations provided the incentive for a search for an effective method of chemical control.

TRIAL METHODS

Treated plots contained two species of tutu (*Coriari arborea* and *C. samentosa*). All plots were of a uniform size, 5 ft × 8 ft. The formulation used in all trials was 10% dicamba on an inert granule. All treat-

TABLE 1: MEAN RATING (0-10) OF EFFECT ON GROWTH OF TUTU AT THREE INTERVALS

<i>Dicamba</i> (lb a.i./acre)	4 wk	13 wk	26 wk
EXPERIMENT 1 APPLIED LAWRENCE ON 5/11/68			
10	6.2	4.6	7.2
20	8.2	9.2	8.6
28	8.6	10.0	10.0
Control	0	0	0
EXPERIMENT 2 APPLIED MILTON ON 15/11/68			
1	4.6	5.6	1.0
3	5.6	6.6	2.6
5	7.2	8.6	8.0
Control	0	0	0
EXPERIMENT 3 APPLIED BLACK ROCK ON 3/11/68			
5	6.6	6.0	6.0
10	7.2	7.2	8.9
20	8.6	8.2	9.2
Control	0	0	0

ments were hand distributed and each trial was visually assessed three times. Ratings were based on a 0 to 10 scale, in which 0 indicated no effect on foliage or growth, and 10 indicated all foliage dead and no regrowth. The trials were all laid in Otago, at Milton, Lawrence and Black Rock. Applications were made in November and December, 1968, to actively growing bushes up to 3 ft high.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of three trials for control of tutu with dicamba 10% prills are given in Table 1.

In these trials only the highest rate of 28 lb dicamba gave complete kill. Observation revealed that, even where dicamba 10% prills were used at rates less than 10 lb active ingredient per acre, some plants were completely killed. Had the active content of the formulation been lower and the quantity of prills increased to give better distribution, improved performance at rates of active chemical less than 28 lb/acre might have been secured. Further trials using lower rates of active chemical are proposed with dicamba prills at concentrations of 5% or less.