

FILM REVIEWS

"LET THE GRASS GROW"

16 mm sound, colour; 20 mins. Produced by Opal Films,
Dungog, N.S.W. for Dow Chemicals (Australia) Pty. Ltd.

This film deals with the application of "Tordon" in grassland management.

Firstly, it deals with spraying of unwanted vegetation to encourage grass growth.

The ease of application of the granular formulation is then demonstrated in the control of sweet briar.

Particular emphasis is placed on the effectiveness of "Tordon 50-D" in the control of *Eucalyptus* regrowth. A comparison is made with ringbarking. The stem injection technique with both injector and injector axe is explained in some detail and illustrated with excellent close-up photography. Examples of large scale use of this method are given in the removal of eucalyptus from a cypress pine forest and in the clearing of eucalyptus forest to allow native grasses and herbs to colonise the area.

The film concludes with the maintenance of power line easements.

An excellent film that all graziers should see. But a word of warning — crops and pastures, if sprayed, may be damaged and toxic soil residues may result. Legumes are particularly sensitive to "Tordon".

G. Diatloff.

"THE NEW EARTH"

16 mm sound, colour; 25 mins. Produced by Kinetone,
Brisbane for Terranova Tropical Seeds.

This is an attractive, colourful, optimistic film which very successfully advertises both tropical pastures and Terranova. The camera work is generally good, and the film contains some excellent close-up shots — a cow grazing grass, legume nodules, the tripping of legume flowers, and weed seeds blowing in the air, are especially notable sequences. There is also a continuum of movement throughout the film, which holds the viewer's interest. Much of this movement is natural, but one does note that almost all the scientists appear to be under some compulsive spell which makes them tear up pasture with their bare hands.

The film introduces a number of pasture improvement themes without developing any of these in depth. It is in no sense a teaching film (e.g. many species pictured are not named) and the script is emotively written (e.g. "fabulous new plant life . . ."). It is rather a film to interest the unconverted in the great potential development which may stem from coastal tropical grass/legume swards.

L. R. Humphreys.