

# Trouble Shooting in Silage

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# Good Quality Silage

- **Well fermented silage is the product of a desirable lactic acid fermentation**
  - in anaerobic conditions, well fermented and sweet smelling.
- **Fermentation acid smells**
  - Acetic— Like vinegar
  - Butyric— Putrid, rotten
  - Propionic— Sharp sting in the nose and throat
  - Lactic- Sweet smelling, like natural yoghurt



# Tobacco /sweet caramel Smell

Likely cause	Immediate action	Future action
Prolonged aerobic phase leading to excessive heating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allow for lower energy and protein values when feeding</li><li>• Beware of greater likelihood of Moulds</li><li>• Discard mouldy silage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Avoid over wilting</li><li>• ensure proper chop size</li><li>• Ensure bales and stacks are packed really tightly</li></ul>



# Vinegar like Smell

Likely cause	Immediate action	Future action
Acetic fermentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Silage will be less palatable, mix with more palatable feeds where Possible</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use good quality silage inoculant for a faster, more efficient lactic acid fermentation</li></ul>

# Putrid Smell

Likely cause	Immediate action	Future action
Clostridial activity producing butyric acid, possibly from soil contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Silage will have poor keeping quality, use as soon as possible</li><li>• Very unpalatable so top dress with molasses to improve intakes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Avoid soil and muck contamination in the bunker and on packing vehicle tyres</li><li>• Use good quality inoculant to minimize clostridial activity before the pH falls</li></ul>



# Ammonia (like bleach)

Likely cause	Immediate action	Future e action
High N content of crop or slow fermentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Silage could have poorer keeping quality, use as soon as possible</li><li>• Will be unpalatable so top dress with molasses to improve intakes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not apply N to silage crops too close to cutting</li><li>• Use good quality inoculant to reduce protein breakdown</li></ul>

# Alcoholic Smell

Likely cause	Immediate action	Future action
Yeast activity during the aerobic phase or during feed out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beware of greater likelihood of Moulds</li><li>• Allow for lower energy value when feeding</li><li>• Use as soon as possible</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not cut crops too dry</li><li>• Ensure stacks are packed really tightly, seal straight away with a new cover and touching tyres</li></ul>

# Mouldy Smell

Likely cause	Immediate action	Future action
Mould growth during the aerobic phase or during feed out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feed out as quickly as possible</li><li>• Discard all mouldy silage for Compost</li><li>• Use good quality toxin binder where there is a risk of mycotoxins</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not over wilt or cut crops too dry</li><li>• Ensure bales and stacks are packed really tightly</li></ul>





Thanks!