

TV Bioenergy Coppice

Harvest

SRC is harvested using a modified forage harvester (see below). Harvesting is a single-pass process where the crop is cut, chipped and blown into a trailer in a single operation. The harvester can be adjusted to achieve the appropriate size of chip for the end-user so that further size reduction is not necessary. The chip can then be transported directly to the end-user or stored to dry out under cover or outdoors in a clamp, until the desired moisture content is achieved.



After harvest the crop resprouts from the cut stumps and is harvested thereafter on a 3 year cycle. If site preparation, fertiliser applications, weed, pest and disease control are carried out effectively, the currently available varieties will continue to yield around 10 dry tonnes per hectare per year (30 dry tonnes per hectare per harvest) for around 10 harvests. New varieties being developed by breeding programmes are expected to continuously improve the achievable yields of SRC, therefore it may be desirable to replace an older plantation with new varieties after fewer than 10 harvests. Plantations can be easily removed by harvesting the crop and allowing a small amount of regrowth, before applying a glyphosate-based herbicide to kill the crop. After a few months the root system can be removed by disking and ploughing the site.