

TV Bioenergy Coppice

Years 1 and 2

During the second year (the first year after cut-back) the crop should develop a closed canopy. This is where leaves from adjacent trees start to overlap and competing weeds are shaded-out. After canopy closure, herbicide applications should not be necessary for the remaining lifetime of the crop. However the nutrients removed from the soil by the crop must be replaced by applications of fertiliser, preferably of organic origin such as sewage sludge or manure. The best time to apply fertiliser is immediately after cut-back or harvest. The crop continues to develop in the second, third and fourth years and the canopy becomes more and more dense. At about 3 years following cut-back (4 years after planting), the canopy has become so dense that adjacent trees start to compete with each other for light. It is at this stage that the growth of the crop starts to slow down and the crop should be harvested to maintain high yields.

