

## **Short Rotation Coppice Question and Answers**

### **Q1. What is the life span of coppice stools?**

The life span of the coppice stools is estimated at 25 years, and the applicant should therefore select areas, which best fit, this time scale.

### **Q2. How soon can SRC be removed and the land returned to another land use?**

It is feasible to remove the SRC stools at any time outwith the 5 year SFGS contractual period without penalty from FCS. However you should also check with any end user supply contract.

### **Q3. Can SRC be planted on set-aside land?**

Yes. You will need to notify SEERAD of the fields planted, the species planted, the length of crop cycle and the frequency of harvesting?

### **Q4. When should SEERAD be notified?**

The information must be supplied in the Single Application Form submitted annually under the IACS exercise.

### **Q5. Who is eligible for the energy crop scheme payment?**

Only farmers/organisations who plant energy crops, including SRC, on agricultural land can apply to SEERAD for payment. Again, they must do so on the Single Application Form submitted annually under the IACS exercise.

### **Q6. Is set aside land eligible for the energy crop scheme payment scheme?**

No

### **Q7. Can SRC be planted on non-agricultural land?**

Yes, as long as the site is suitable for growing SRC. However you will not be eligible for the energy crop scheme.

### **Q8. Does Forestry Commission Scotland have an approved list of poplar clones?**

No. However Forest Research may be able to provide advice on the clones that are not recommended because they have been seriously affected by disease.

### **Q9. How much open ground is permitted within an application?**

Up to 20% of the area can be grant aided as designed open ground. It is necessary to ensure that specific designed open space is mapped to allow FCS to check that it does not exceed the 20% maximum. Examples of specific designed open ground include, monuments and their buffer zone, small watercourses and wet areas, buffer areas next to properties, scalloping of edges near public access routes.

Open ground will be paid at the £1000 per hectare SRC rate.