

### Context

Predicted shortfall in supply of timber for biomass

Ireland's renewable targets are set to increase to 16% by 2020

Exploring the potential of Short Rotation Forestry (SRF) in Ireland to meet renewable energy demands

### Objectives

- To map the current SRF resource in Ireland
- To assess the potential of SRF to contribute to biomass production
- To investigate the potential for using fast-growing broadleaved and coniferous species in SRF
- To develop an efficient production, management and harvesting system for use at farm level
- To assess the environmental impact of SRF silvicultural systems
- To investigate the impact of a number of spacings on species growth characteristics on several site types
- To determine silvicultural practices (e.g. spacing) that optimises returns

### Field trials established to investigate the impact of spacing on species growth

#### Mountain West

- \* *Eucalyptus nitens*
- \* *Eucalyptus rodwayii*
- \* Italian alder
- \* Sitka spruce (control)
- \* Coast redwood

#### Brownswood

- \* *Eucalyptus nitens*
- \* Italian alder
- \* Sitka spruce (control)
- \* Grand fir

#### Johnstown Castle

- \* *Eucalyptus nitens*
- \* Italian alder
- \* Sitka spruce (control)

Mountain West

Johnstown Castle

Brownswood

