

## 9.17 Weed Control

Weeds reduce both the survival and height growth of trees by competing for light, moisture and nutrients. It has been demonstrated that the most effective and efficient means of controlling weeds is by the use of herbicides. By controlling vegetation in a 1m diameter spot (or 1m wide band) around the base of trees in the initial 4 years successful establishment to Forest Service standards should be achieved.

Weed control should be undertaken in accordance with the booklet 'Guidelines for the use of Herbicides in forestry' published by Coillte Teoranta on behalf of the Forest Service (available from the local Forest Service Inspectors). Please note that the use of chemicals is governed by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1989 and users should be familiar with manufacturers instructions.

## 9.18 Standards at Year 4

### 9.18.1 General

Only when all the plantation is established satisfactorily should a Form 3 be submitted for payment. Where part of the plantation is up to standard and part of the plantation is not the applicant should not submit Form 3. Any Form 3 applications submitted that fall into this category will not be paid.

### 9.18.2 Stocking levels

A crop is established when at least 90% of the original specified stocking, spread evenly over the site, is free from competing vegetation and is free growing.

### 9.18.3 Fertility

Plantations where trees are showing signs of nutrient deficiency should not be submitted for 2nd installment payment. In such cases a foliar analysis should be undertaken to determine the fertiliser type and rate to be applied. The site should then be fertilised accordingly and following a successful response to the application of fertiliser the site should then be submitted for 2nd installment payment.



Figure 7. Norway spruce (4 year old).



Figure 8. Ash (4 year old).