

trees already have grown taller than 20 feet and show great promise for emerging bioenergy markets worldwide, Brown said. Brown and Clemson crop physiologist Jim Frederick have planted more than 3,000 trees, which they will monitor and evaluate during the next few years. The approximate time between harvests is about five to six years, by which time some may be more than 50 feet tall, Brown said. Clemson's Frederick said much of the woody biomass for bioenergy likely will come from purposely grown bioenergy trees that have fast growth rates and is an important area of research for Clemson to be involved in. Interest in bioenergy as a whole is the basis for the partnership, Frederick said. There's no big grant involved. It's just two groups working together for a common cause. The trees will sprout again and grow from the cut stumps, thus they need to be planted just once. Clemson and ArborGen collaborate in such areas as plant genetics and development, field trials, equipment engineering, material handling and woody biomass pretreatment, among other areas. Research is conducted on tree species that include coastal loblolly pine, sweetgum, eucalyptus and poplar trees.

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