Changes in soil quality over time
in a very short rotation willow coppice
as compared with the neighbouring soils
of an alluvial forest, grassy strip and annual crop

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ABSTRACT

The soil of a Very Short Rotation willow Coppice (VSRC) plot was monitored over 2 years and compared with neighbouring soils with different land uses. The SRC plot was conducive to the development of fungal and earthworm communities compared to a conventional agrosystem. A connection exists between these observations and the quantity of organic matter deposited on the ground and its qualitative changes. The high rate of mineralisation acts as a short-term buffer to the effects of wood removal in the absence of fertilisation.