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Discusses the results of a study conducted to determine the effect of tree stump spacing on sprouting and growth of sprouts in four tree species (Azadirachta indica, Acacia nilotica, Leucaena leucocephala and Eucalyptus hybrid), in a 6 and 5-year old energy plantation, growing in the semi-arid Vertisols in Karnataka State. Bark thickness did not appear to be a hindrance in permitting sprouting of coppice shoots, although stump diameters were greater under wider spacing (3 x 1m). Sprouting took place in all four species, and the optimum spacing for obtaining tall coppice shoots was 3 x 1 m for A.nilotica and L.leucocephala while in case of A indica and Function 1 1 11