

**Basic requirements specified in Article 5 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003**

**(Minimum standards applicable to farmers pursuant to the Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 12 March 2007 *on minimum standards (Dz.U. No 46, item 306)*)**

On arable land: growing crops on arable land or setting arable land aside (in this case land should be mowed or otherwise cultivated in order to prevent the occurrence and spreading of weeds at least once a year by 31 July).

On meadows:

- plant cover is mowed and removed at least once a year by 31 July,
- in the case of implementation of agri-environmental action and increasing of animal welfare – the plant cover is mowed and removed at least once a year by the date specified in the detailed conditions and procedure for granting financial support for agri-environmental action and increasing of animal welfare covered by Rural Development Plan
- In the case of use of financial aid under the NATURA 2000 areas and associated with the implementation of Framework Directive the plant cover is mowed and removed by the date specified in the provisions on the support for rural development, co-financed by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development,
- In the case of use of financial aid under the agri-environmental action measure the plant cover should be mowed and removed by the date specified in the provisions on the support for rural development, co-financed by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development;

On pastures:

- animals are grazed within the grass growing season or the plant cover is mowed and removed at least once a year by 31 July,
- In the case of use of financial aid under the NATURA 2000 areas and associated with the implementation of Framework Directive the plant cover is mowed and removed by the date specified in the provisions on the support for rural development, co-financed by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development,
- In the case of use of financial aid under the agri-environmental action measure the plant cover should be mowed and removed by the date

specified in the provisions on the support for rural development, co-financed by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

If arable land is located on slopes over 20° they should not be maintained as black fallow and used for the cultivation of plants requiring the maintenance of ridges along the slope, and in the case of use of perennial plants for their cultivation, the plant cover or inter-row mulching should be maintained or terrace cultivation should be introduced.

Arable land is not burnt and cultivation on arable land is not carried out with heavy agricultural machinery when the soil is saturated with water.

Agricultural land should not be grown over with trees or shrubs, excluding lands used for osier planting (*Salix sp.*), trees and shrubs not subject to cutting pursuant to the nature conservation regulations and important for the protection of water and soil, as well as those not influencing the agricultural activity conducted on that land. Agricultural land may be grown over with trees or shrubs, if they do not affect plant production carried out within that land, and their number cannot exceed 50 items per hectare.

Short rotation groves (CN ex 0602 90 41) used for energy purposes are not grown over with weeds and they are collected at least following the four-year cycle. They are to be located 1.5 m from the adjacent parcel of land, on which such plantation has been established or the one used as forest land, or 3 m from the adjacent parcel of land used for different purposes, and at the same time the surface area determined by the boundary of the adjacent parcel of land and the boundary of the plantation is included in the surface area of the agricultural parcel and is considered maintained in accordance with the standards.