Plan before you Plant

Plant the right tree in the right place for electric service reliability

Trees and power lines don’t mix. When they touch, it can cause everything from power outages, fires and downed lines, to safety hazards for people, wildlife and even the trees themselves. Tree branches too close to power lines must be trimmed, and adequate trimming can’t always be done in ways that retain the natural aesthetics of the tree.

Low-growing trees maturing up to 25 feet in height such as crabapple, dogwood, hawthorn, plum, and Japanese maple, can be planted near roadside power lines, in the Red Zone.

Medium-sized trees, maturing at heights of 25-45 feet, can be planted between 15 and 30 feet from the power lines, in the Yellow Zone. Such trees include arborvitae, flowering cherry, magnolia, hornbeam, and shadblow.

Large-growing trees, reaching heights of more than 45 feet, should be planted at least 30 feet from power lines, in the Green Zone. Oak, maple, locust, spruce, and pine are some examples.

Plant Trees in the Proper Zone

Red Zone:
Trees less than 25’ high

Yellow Zone:
Trees 25 - 45’ high

Green Zone:
Trees greater than 45’ high

Call Before You Dig!

Call 1-800-922-4455 at least two full working days before any type of digging. It’s free, easy and the law.

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