

# Eversource's Vegetation Management

## Philosophy & Policies

Eversource's vegetation management program is focused on ensuring reliable electric service through scheduled and assessed maintenance of vegetation that could affect our more than 40,000 miles of overhead power lines and electrical equipment.

### Why We Regularly Prune, Trim, Clear, and Cut

Living and working in one of the most forested areas in the country, New Englanders value our trees. We also recognize the importance of providing reliable power to our families, businesses, and communities. Falling trees and limbs during storms or branches that are too close can cause power outages, bring down wires or break electrical equipment. Contact between trees and wires can also pose safety hazards to people, property, wildlife, and to the trees themselves. To help maintain reliable power and public safety, Eversource hires qualified tree contractors to remove branches and trees on a regular schedule and on an as-needed basis.

### When and How We Perform Vegetation Management Work

Typically, Eversource schedules vegetation management along our overhead power lines in cycles of every 4 to 5 years, with occasional mid-cycle trimming for locations or situations that cannot wait until the normal scheduled trimming. Eversource's qualified arborists and tree contractors:

- Notify impacted property owners and abutters of work to be performed.
- Incorporate industry best practices and professional standards.
- Prune, cut, clear, or remove tall-growing and diseased trees, as well as invasive shrubs, that interfere with power line reliability and safety, or pose a risk.
- Trees are trimmed along, below, and above wires. The trimming specifications remove limbs that are within 8 feet to the side, 10 feet below, and 15 feet above the wires. Additional clearance may be prescribed on main lines.

### Eversource and Our Customers' Responsibilities

#### What Eversource does

- Routinely assess and schedule maintenance tree work to clear vegetation that may pose a threat to reliability or safety.
- Remove only those branches that are in direct contact with Eversource service lines and are causing chafing or mechanical strain. Service lines are the electric wires that run from the utility pole to a home or business.
- Eversource will temporarily shut off power so that work can be performed safely and will restore power once the tree work is finished.
- During scheduled vegetation management, Eversource tree contractors will remove wood and branches. However, at an owner's request, wood chips or cut wood resulting from any trimming that takes place on or near a customer's property, may be kept.
  - If a customer requests to keep the wood, it will be stacked in log lengths (usually greater than 12 feet) along the edge of the clearing limits within the right-of-way.
  - If the clearing edge is in an environmentally sensitive area, we'll discuss an alternate stacking location.

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### Eversource and Our Customers' Responsibilities

#### Property owner's responsibilities

- Customers are responsible for caring for and maintaining the trees on their property that could threaten to affect electric wire service from the pole to the home or business, or cable or telephone wires, and need to contact a qualified tree professional.
- If Eversource cuts down a tree that is located on a customer's property, stump removal will be the responsibility of the property owner.
- During unscheduled vegetation management or emergency situations, removal and disposal of any cut branches or trees on or near their property is the customer's responsibility.



#### Tree Assessment Requests

- If a tree assessment is requested on a customer's property, Eversource will complete the assessment within 14 calendar days.
- If work is performed as a result of the assessment, it will be completed within 21 calendar days.
- Tree assessments can only be requested for trees located on a customer's property. Eversource will be unable to complete any work if the vegetation in question is owned by another person.
- The customer will be informed of the assessment findings by the preferred method of contact.