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2012

# Residential Planting Guide



Putting in some new landscaping or trees this year? Or perhaps planning your garden?

Here are some tips to keep you safe around electricity.

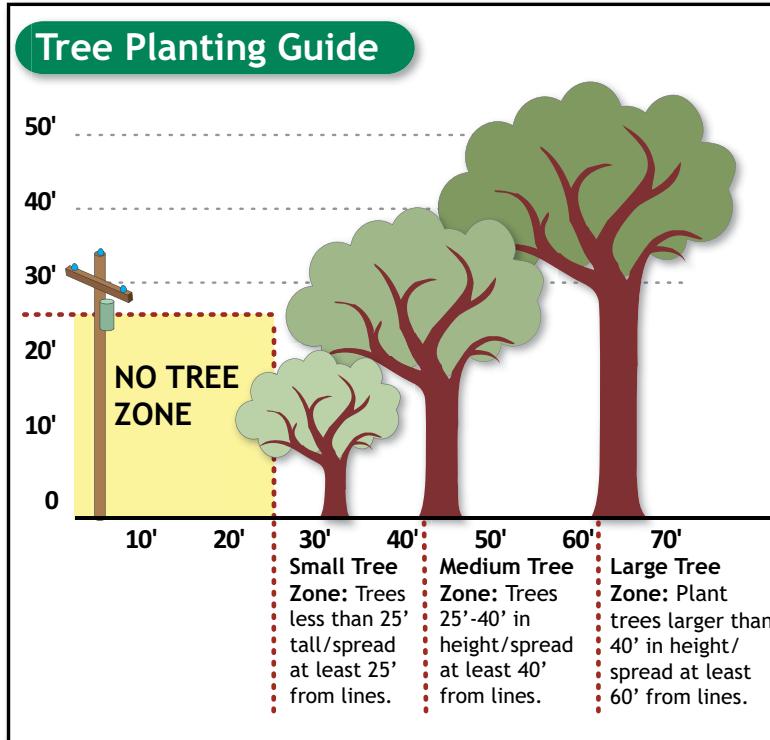
# Landscaping around electricity

As you plan your tree and landscape plantings, consider that trees and shrubs need space to grow both above and below ground. Reduce fire hazards, power outages and the need for frequent pruning with proper selection and planting of trees near utilities.

In our part of the country, we use dense windbreaks to protect homes from harsh winter winds. Winter sun should be able to reach south-facing windows. Refer to this helpful graphic to determine which species to plant in various locations on your property:

Tall trees surrounding your home, such as maple, oak, pine and spruce, provide summer shade to lower cooling costs and keep out cold winter winds. Medium trees, 40 feet or less in mature height, include hawthorn, pagoda dogwood, star magnolia and Amur maple, while smaller trees suitable for planting near distribution utility lines might include crab apple, sumac, burning bush or winterberry.

These tree recommendations are for planting near local distribution power lines. The only trees that may be planted within the 80 foot wide electrical transmission line right of way are ornamentals or dwarf fruit trees that grow no taller than 12 feet at maturity.



- Take care to plant trees away from underground utilities, as tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs could damage the health of nearby plants and trees.
- Always look up for nearby power lines before you cut down any tree or trim branches. If a tree falls into a power line, contact your electric co-op.

- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.
- If you have trees that appear to be growing into or leaning toward power lines, contact your electric utility. Never try to prune them yourself.