

Right Tree, Right Location

The first step toward selecting and planting the right tree is knowing how tall the tree will be at maturity. Without proper planning, the small tree you get at the nursery can grow rapidly around the power line. Or in the case of a high wind, that 20-ft. or higher tree could fall right onto the power line.

Trees close to a power line can:

Cause serious and fatal accidents from arc flashes (a short circuit through air that can flash over from an energized power line to trees, people or other objects, producing intense heat and light)

- **Cause power outages**, especially if the tree comes into contact with the power line.
- **Cost a lot of money for the Co-op** (and its members) from having to cut down trees or deal with tree-related outages.
- **Obstruct the path** for our maintenance vehicles to repair or maintain the electric lines.

Plan now and avoid problems later

Please refer to the clearance guidelines enclosed in this pamphlet and plant your trees accordingly. Note how high the tree is likely to get and plant it far enough away from the power line so that as it matures it will not come within the specified clearance zone.



Before digging one shovel-full of dirt, be sure to call 811 and have all underground lines located.

Failing to do so could result in cut utility lines, suffering from a contact injury or worse. Hitting an underground cable with a metal shovel could lead to electrocution, loss of limbs or death. It's not worth the risk.



NEVER approach a downed line. Call the Co-op to have them de-energize the line. Assuming a line is dead could be fatal.



PLANTING TREES Clearance Guidelines

Most outages are tree-related

High winds knock trees into power lines and cause outages frequently. Vegetation management — tree cutting included — is crucial to clearing the path for reliable electric supply and reducing the frustration of high cost of outages.

Using these guidelines to plant trees now will save your tree and will help prevent tree-related outages in the future.

Meeker
Cooperative
Light and Power Association

1725 US HWY 12 E, STE 100
Litchfield, MN 55355
320-693-3231
www.meeker.coop

Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

LOW TREE ZONE

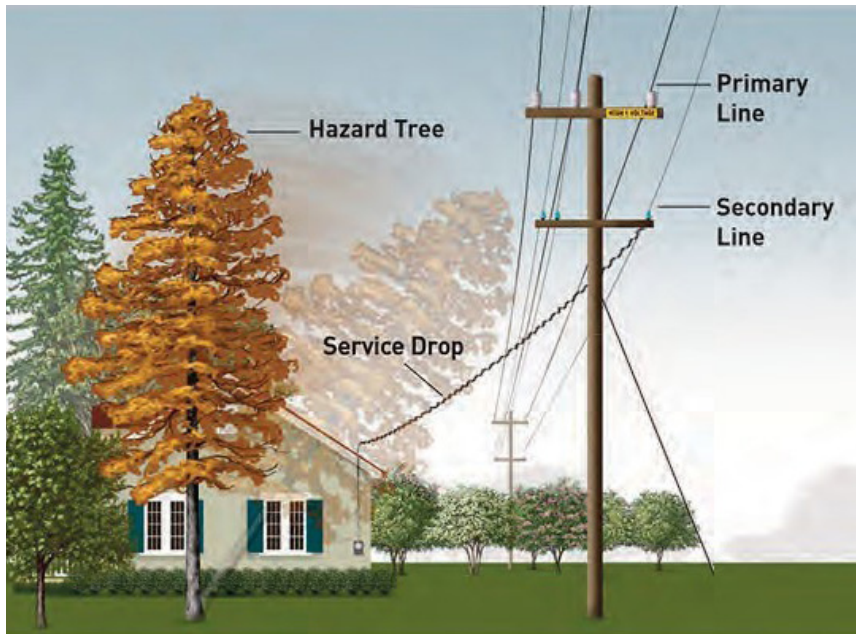
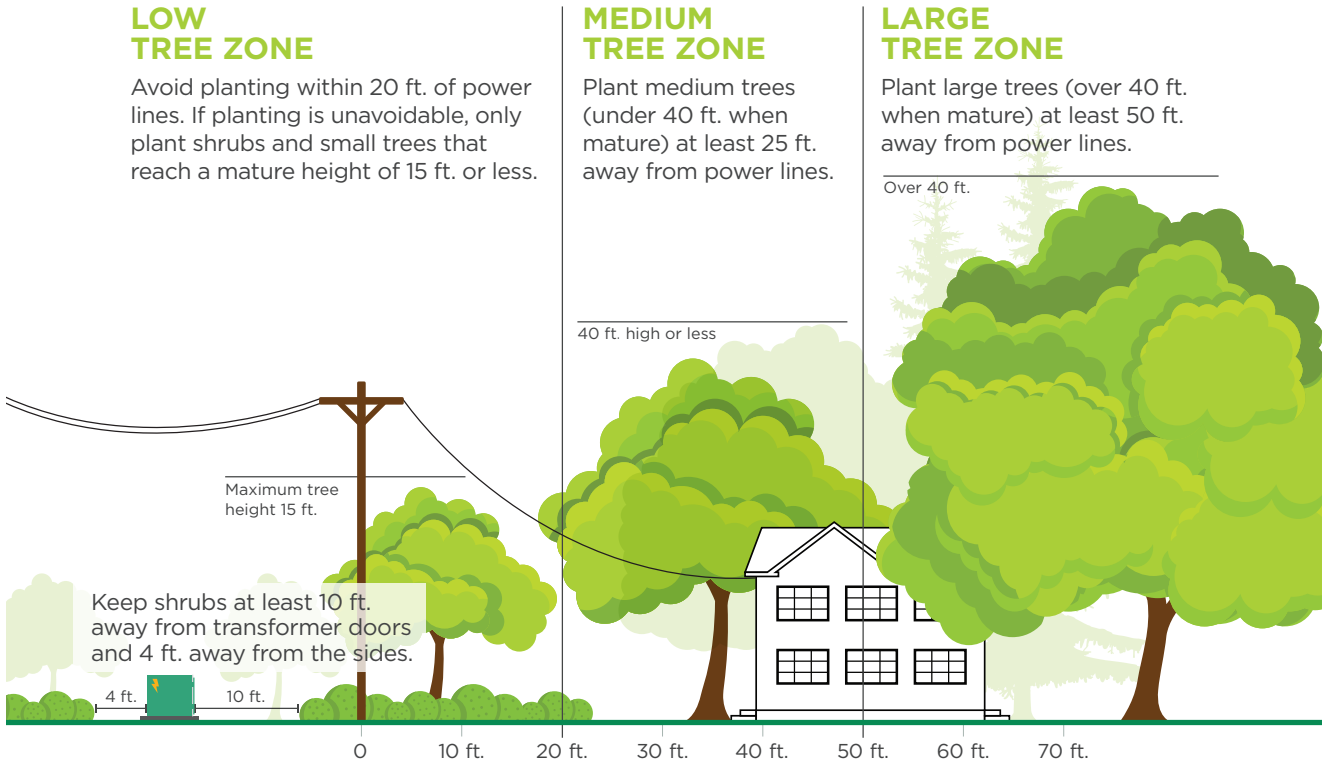
Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.



When choosing a tree, consider its size at maturity and plant it far enough away from the power line so that if the wind takes it down, there's no danger of it falling into the power lines. A tree may look far enough away, but during storm winds a tree falls further than you'd think. Be aware of dead, dry or dying trees, which are more likely to come down in a storm, and remove them before they cause a costly outage.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Call 8-1-1
or
request a ticket at
www.gsocsubmit.org