

Trees to Plant in Rights of Way

Trees and power lines are a delicate mix. Because of that, MTEMC encourage builders and developers to think about the relationship of electric rights-of-way when making landscaping plans. Some trees have no place near power line rights-of-way; other tree types however, can be safely planted within and near rights-of-way. The lists below provide a number of trees MTEMC recommends.

Small trees with a mature height of 20 feet or lower can be planted within the right of way if it is in a maintained yard setting; they may be planted no closer than 10 feet from the center of the pole line.

Medium growing trees with a mature height of 20 to 40 feet may be planted at the edge of the right of way, which is 20 feet from the center of the pole line.

Large growing trees with a mature height of 40 foot or greater need to be planted a minimum of 40 feet from the center of the pole line.

When planting near underground facilities make sure to leave access to the boxes when the grass/shrubs are at mature size. The “no grow zone” is defined as 3 feet on the sides of the underground box and 12 feet in front of the door.

Small Growing Trees

Plant this size tree no closer than 10 feet from the center of pole line.

Adirondack Crabapple
Malus 'Adirondack'
Max Height – 18'

Common Smoketree
Cotinus coggygria
Max Height – 15'

Yuma Crape Myrtle
Lipan indica x Lipan fauriei 'Yuma'
Max Height - 20'

Red Buckeye
Aesculus pavia
Max Height - 20'

Narragansett Crabapple
Malus 'Narragansett'
Max Height - 20'

Lipan Crape Myrtle
Lipan indica x Lipan Fauriei 'Lipan'
Max Height – 20'

Sioux Crape Myrtle
Lipan indica x Lipan fauriei 'Sioux'
Max Height - 20'

Stellar Pink Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida x Cornus kousa 'Stellar Pink'
Max Height – 20'

Aurora Dogwood
Cornus florida x Cornus kousa 'Aurora'
Max Height - 20'

Constellation Dogwood
Cornus forida x Cornus kousa 'Constellation'
Max Height - 20'

Celestial Dogwood
Cornus forida x Cornus kousa 'Celestial'
Max Height - 20'

Ruth Ellen Dogwood
Cornus forida x Cornus kousa 'Ruth Ellen'
Max Height - 20'

Alva Apricot
Prunus mume 'Albe'
Max Height - 20'

Alva Plena Apricot
Prunus mume 'Alva Plena'
Max Height - 20'

Alphandii Apricot
Prunus mume 'Alphandii'
Max Height - 20'

Benishidare Apricot
Prunus mume 'Benishidare'
Max Height - 20'

Jane Magnolia
Magnolia liliiflora 'Jane'
Max Height - 20'

Star Magnolia
Magnolia stellata
Max Height - 20'

Flame amur Maple
Acer ginnalaa
Max Height - 20'

Tatarian Maple
Acer tataricum
Max Height - 20'

White Fringetree
Chionanthus virginicus
Max Height - 20'

Witchhazel
Hamamelis spp.
Max Height - 20'

Common Lilac
Syringa vulgaris
Max Height - 15'

Medium Growing Trees

Plant this size tree no closer than 20 feet from the center of the pole line.

Chinese Fringetree
Chionanthus retusus
Max Height - 25'

Purple Leaf Plum
Prunus cerasifera
Max Height - 25'

Foster Holly
Ilex x attenuata
Max Height - 25'

Japanese Maple
Acer palmatum
Max Height - 25'

Serviceberries
Amelanchier spp.
Max Height - 25'

Eastern Redbud
Cercis canadensis 'Eastern'
Max Height - 30'

Hawthorns
Crataegus spp.
Max Height - 25'

Kousa Dogwood
Cornus kousa
Max Height - 30'

Yoshino Flowering Cherry
Prunus yedoensis
Max Height - 40'

Kwanzan Flowering Cherry
Prunus serrulata 'Kwazan'
Max Height - 40'

Greenleaf American Holly
Ilex opaca 'Greenleaf'
Max Height - 35'

Warren Red Holly
Ilex decidua 'Warren Red'
Max Height - 30'

Forest Pansy Redbud
Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy'
Max Height - 30'

Oklahoma Redbud
Cercis canadensis texensis 'Oklahoma'
Max Height - 30'

Saucer Magnolia
Magnolia x soulangiana
Max Height - 25'

Canada chokecherry
Prunus virginiana 'Canada Red'
Max Height - 30'

Emerald Green Arborvitae
Thuja occidentalis 'Smaragd'
Max Height - 25'

Okame Cherry
Prunus x incamp 'Okame'
Max Height – 30'

Trees to Avoid

These trees are considered invasive, medium or large growing at maturity, fast growing, and have weak wood.

Bradford Pear
Pyrus calleryana
Max Height: 60'

Mimosa
Albizia julibrissin
Max Height: 40'

Lombardy Poplar
Populus nigra 'Italica'
Max Height: 60'

White Poplar
Populus alba
Max Height: 75'

Silver Maple
Acer saccharinum
Max Height: 80'

Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven)
Ailanthus altissima
Max Height: 80'

Empress Tree (Royal Paulownia)
Paulownia tomentosa
Max Height: 50'

Chinese Tallow
Triadica sebifera
Max Height: 50'