

Trees are a valuable asset in commercial, private and public landscapes. They add beauty, help the environment and add value to the property. However, these same trees can be a major challenge for Rappahannock Electric Cooperative.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE

A service of:

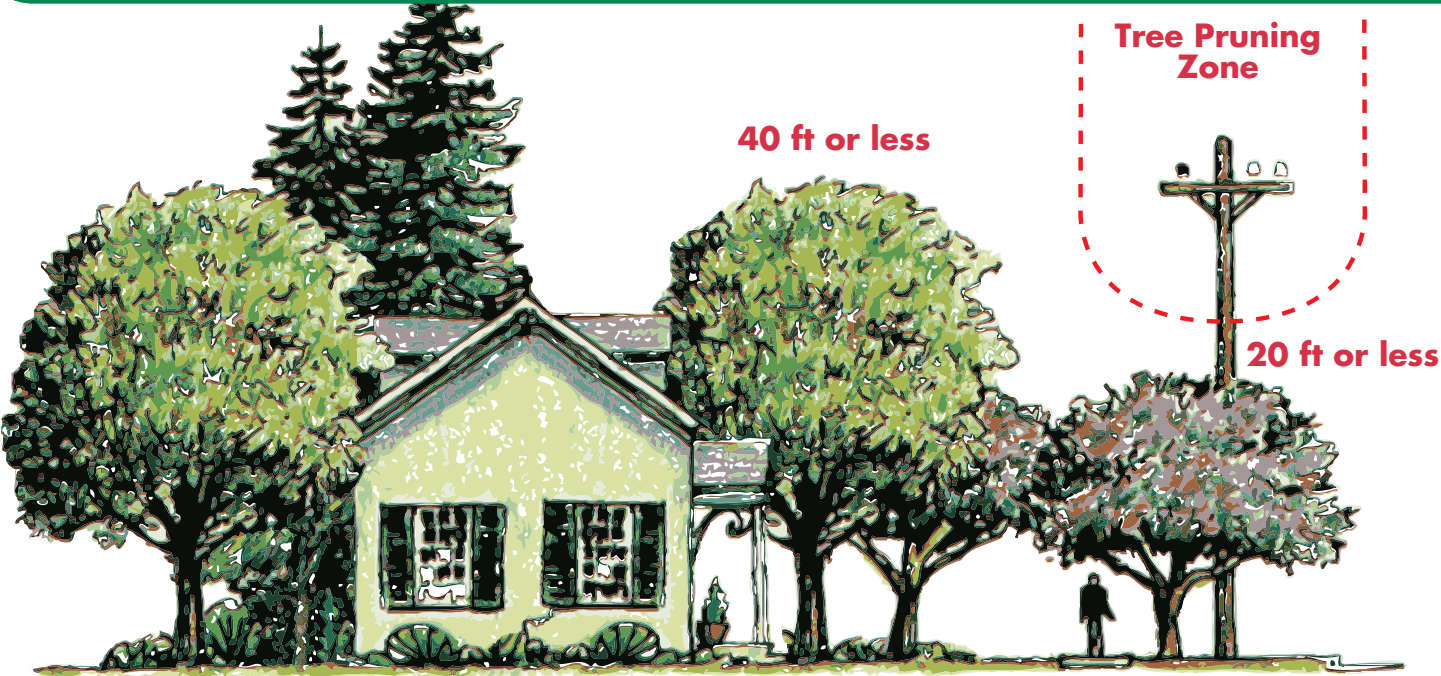


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Providing safe and reliable electric service is REC’s top priority. Sometimes, trees make this difficult. Trees are one of the major causes of power outages in areas with overhead utility lines. When trees contact live wires they become conductors of electricity, causing power outages or creating dangerous situations for anyone coming in contact with the trees.

REC works hard maintaining its rights of way near overhead lines to provide safe and reliable electrical service. Although REC would prefer that no trees are planted within our rights of way with overhead lines, or within ten feet of our underground transformers, you can help by using the following guidelines when planting trees near overhead lines.

And, of course, before you plant, call VA811 at least three business days in advance to have your underground utilities marked.

Tree selection and planting

When selecting trees to plant on your property, you should consider the mature height of the tree when determining a suitable planting location. Native species will often grow better with fewer insect and disease problems than non-native trees. For areas near houses and overhead utilities, there are three tree height zones, as follows:

Low: The low height zone extends 15 feet on either side of overhead wires. Plant only large shrubs and small trees with mature heights of 20 feet or less within this area.

Medium: To accommodate the width of taller trees, the medium height zone begins at least 15 feet from all utility lines. Select trees that grow 40 feet or less for planting within this zone.

Tall: The tall height zone begins at least 35 feet from buildings and 65 feet from utility lines. Trees that grow taller than 40 feet are suitable for planting in this area.

Height Zones

Low – Under utility lines

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	AVE. MATURE HEIGHT
Amur maple	<i>Acer tataricum</i> ssp. <i>ginnala</i>	15’–18’
Star magnolia	<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	15’–20’
Siebold viburnum	<i>Viburnum sieboldii</i>	15’–20’
Crape myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	15’–25’
White fringetree*	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	12’–20’
Common witchhazel*	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	15’–25’

Little Gem magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> ‘Little Gem’	10’–20’
Flameleaf sumac*	<i>Rhus copallina</i>	15’–25’
Smooth sumac*	<i>Rhus glabra</i>	15’–20’
Sweetbay magnolia*	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	15’–25’

Medium – Near utility lines

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	AVE. MATURE HEIGHT
Kousa dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	20’–30’
Carolina silverbell	<i>Halesia diptera</i>	25’–35’
Galaxy magnolia	<i>Magnolia</i> x ‘Galaxy’	20’–30’
Flowering apricot	<i>Prunus mume</i>	20’–25’
Trident maple	<i>Acer buergerianum</i>	20’–30’
American hornbeam*	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	20’–35’
Flowering dogwood*	<i>Cornus florida</i>	20’–30’
Eastern redbud*	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	20’–35’
Sourwood*	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	25’–40’
Serviceberry*	<i>Amelanchier</i> spp.	15’–30’
Goldenrain tree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	25’–35’
Japanese snowbell	<i>Styrax japonicus</i>	20’–30’
Japanese maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i>	25’–40’
Chanticleer pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> ‘Chanticleer’	30’–40’

Tall – A few common examples

COMMON NAME	LATIN NAME	AVE. MATURE HEIGHT
Red maple*	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	60’–90’
Sugar maple*	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	60’–90’
Southern magnolia*	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	60’–80’
Willow oak*	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	50’–80’
American beech*	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	60’–80’
White oak*	<i>Quercus alba</i>	80’–100’
Pin oak*	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	50’–90’
Leyland cypress	<i>X Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	50’–70’

*Species native to Virginia