

Planting Trees and Shrubs



*your
energy
partner®*

OPPD
Omaha Public Power District

Table of Contents

Planting Precautions 2

The Seeds for Tomorrow 2

What Tree to Plant and Where 3

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place..... 4

Shrubs 4

Tree-Trimming and OPPD 4

For More Information 5

Planting With Care

Many people have discovered that trees and shrubs, planted in the proper locations, can play an important role in lowering their heating and cooling bills. But careless planting can cause electric service interruptions when tree limbs interfere with or fall into power lines. Such problems account for numerous OPPD power outages each year. Also, shrubs planted too close to padmount transformers can interfere with maintenance or power restoration. With proper planting, you can help avoid such situations.



Important Phone Numbers

OPPD Tree Planting or Trimming

Metro Omaha 536-4131

Outside metro area 1-877-536-4131

Press 0 at the main menu, then press 5 to speak with a representative.

Diggers Hotline

Metro Omaha 344-3565

Outside metro area 1-800-331-5666

Planting Precautions

Careful positioning of trees away from power lines will help reduce power outages, and also reduce the need for costly tree-trimming maintenance or removal as the trees mature.

Also, in order to work safely on the dark-green utility boxes called padmount transformers, OPPD crews need at least 10 feet of clearance in front of the unit (the side that is padlocked), three feet on the two sides, and at least one foot on the back side. Fences, shrubs and trees that are located too close to transformers can slow restoration work during an outage or create a serious safety hazard when power is switched off. It is important to consider the eventual size and spread that a shrub or tree will reach at maturity, which varies widely by species.

When you plant, remember that you are required by state law to call the one-call center to request the location of underground utilities prior to any digging project. Call the Diggers Hotline of Nebraska at 344-3565 or 1-800-331-5666.

The Seeds for Tomorrow

There are basically two types of trees. Deciduous trees are those that leaf in the spring and shed in the fall. Coniferous or evergreen trees are those that stay green all year. The deciduous are best for shade. Evergreens are ideal for windbreaks. A well-formed deciduous tree, planted to provide maximum shade on your home, can alleviate the load on your air conditioner in the summer and substantially reduce your operating costs.

Evergreen trees planted in the right place can effectively protect your home against the most blustery winter wind, shield outside work areas, and help reduce your heating costs. Planted as windbreaks, these trees can reduce wind speed for a distance several times their height and, therefore, need not be planted close to dwellings to be effective.

Sturdy, low-growing evergreen shrubs can be planted to shield the exposed portions of your home's foundation – a critical heat-loss point.

What Tree to Plant and Where

Small Trees

These trees can be planted adjacent to power lines.

	Mature Height
Dwarf Fruit Trees	20 to 25 feet
Flowering Crab	10 to 25 feet
* Red Bud	20 to 25 feet
Purple Leaf Plum	15 to 20 feet
* Hawthorn	15 to 25 feet
Upright Juniper	10 to 20 feet
Amur Maple	15 to 20 feet

Medium Trees

Plant no closer than 20 feet horizontally to power lines.

	Mature Height
Russian Olive	20 to 30 feet
Ornamental Pears	25 to 35 feet
Mountain Ash	20 to 30 feet
Amur Cork Tree	20 to 30 feet
Black Hills Spruce	30 to 45 feet

Plant no closer than 30 feet horizontally to power lines.

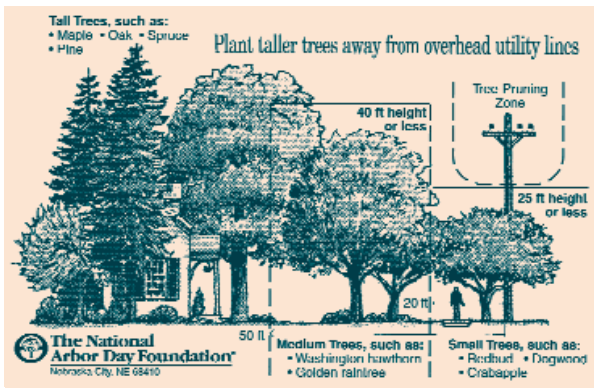
	Mature Height
* Ash	40 to 60 feet
* Linden, Redmond, Little Leaf	40 to 60 feet
Austrian Pine	45 to 65 feet
Norway Maple	40 to 50 feet
Birch (River Birch)	30 to 45 feet
Scotch Pine	45 to 65 feet
* Thornless Honey Locust	40 to 50 feet

Large Trees

Plant no closer than 50 feet horizontally to power lines.

	Mature Height
* Maple (Silver, Sugar, Red)	50 to 70 feet
* Oak	50 to 70 feet
* Hackberry	60 to 70 feet
* Sycamore	70 to 80 feet
* Cottonwood	70 to 90 feet
* <i>Native Nebraska Trees</i>	

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place



Shrubs

Like trees, shrubs add color and variety to landscaping. Planted as a hedge, shrubs act as a noise barrier as well as a fence. Shrubs also are a primary food source and habitat for wildlife.

These are shrubs that reach heights of 8 to 15 feet, and can be safely planted under power lines: American plum, snowberry, chokecherry, coralberry, elderberry, cotoneaster, viburnum (cranberry), buckthorn, honeysuckle, dogwood, firethorn and sumac.

Shrubs recommended for planting by padmount transformers include: dwarf American cranberry, Bronx forsythia, emerald mound honeysuckle, dwarf winged euonymus, kelsey redosier dogwood, dwarf Korean lilac, Anthony waterer, spreading cotoneaster, densiform yew, Runyon yew, Armstrong juniper, seagreen juniper and compact mugo pine.

Tree-Trimming and OPPD

When a tree near a power line grows to maturity, trimming is often necessary. Maintaining adequate clearance between electric wires and trees is essential to providing safe and dependable electrical service. Trees that interfere with or have a potential for interfering

with existing OPPD lines need to be trimmed or removed by OPPD for safety and reliability reasons.

OPPD trims trees using the following priority:

- ◆ Reports of electrical damage by trees
- ◆ Areas in which trees have been damaged by storms
- ◆ Periodic inspections by OPPD personnel
- ◆ During the regular tree-trimming cycle
- ◆ Reports from customers indicating potential tree/power-line problems

OPPD will notify property owners of the need to trim trees, before trimming is done, unless there is an emergency situation. If OPPD needs to trim a tree, the utility will remove from the property all branches and wood cut by OPPD, unless the property owner requests to keep it. However, OPPD does not cut wood to a uniform length or stack it.

OPPD does not trim trees that interfere with yard light wires or service wires from OPPD's poles to a residence or building. The utility also does not trim trees near streetlights or yard lights to improve illumination.

If a customer will be trimming a tree under a service line or near a yard light, the property owner can arrange with OPPD to have these wires temporarily disconnected during the trimming process. Contact OPPD several days in advance to ensure availability of a crew at the desired time. This service is not available on weekends or holidays.

OPPD recommends removal of trees that will require extensive trimming on a regular basis, but will not remove a tree without the property owner's permission. If a tree must be removed, it will be cut as close to the ground as possible, but the stump will not be removed.

For More Information

If you have additional questions about tree-planting or tree-trimming, please call OPPD Customer Care Services at 536-4131, or toll-free outside the metropolitan area, 1-877-536-4131. Press 0 at the main menu, then press 5 to speak with a representative.



TREE LINE USA.®

OPPD has received the Tree Line USA designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The NADF, in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes utilities that employ practices to protect and enhance America's urban forests.

For more information about planting trees, call 536-4131. Press 0 at the main menu, then press 5 to speak with a representative
Outside the metro area, you may call toll-free, 1-877-536-4131.

your energy partner®

OPPD

Omaha Public Power District

www.oppd.com

Energy Plaza

444 South 16th Street Mall

Omaha, NE 68102-2247