Georgia Power

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

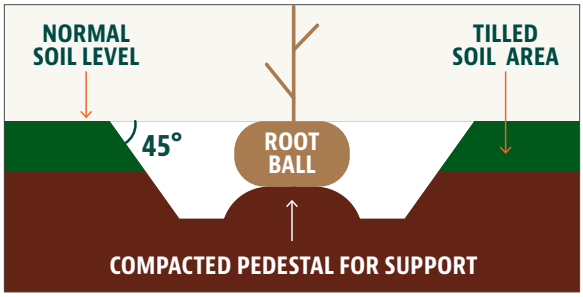
At Georgia Power, we are responsible for providing safe and reliable energy to our customers at the lowest cost possible. We also believe we have a corporate responsibility to provide customers with other valuable services that may be unrelated to generating electricity.

In the Forestry organization, for example, we want to help our customers make the right decisions about planting trees — where to plant, what to plant, how to plant – and anything else related to preserving your trees to create attractive landscapes in our communities. Utility Rights-of-Way (ROW) are commonplace in our communities and are the means by which we deliver energy to homes and businesses. The image below is one example of what such a ROW may look like. We hope this brochure helps you with your tree-planting decisions as they relate to our ROWs.

Give Your New Tree A Good Start

Getting trees started correctly is critical to long tree life, easy care and low-cost maintenance. Trees with limited rooting areas will need more care and have a shorter life span than trees with large soil areas in which to grow.

The diameter of the planting hole should be at least three times the diameter of the root ball. The depth should be measured to ensure the tree is planted at ground level and at the same depth at which it grew in the nursery. All bindings, ties, wires, burlap or other wrapping should be removed before planting.



Dig planting holes so the trees sit at its normal level in the soil. Holes should have highly slanted sides.

Always consider the ultimate mature size when planning.

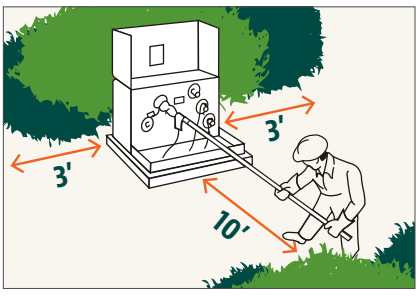
When planting, please consider where the tree will be located in relation to overhead and underground utility lines. (The location of these lines should determine the kind of tree to plant and site selection.) The mature tree must have enough space away from power lines and in an area large enough to accommodate the canopy and root system.

Planting tall growing trees under or near power lines will ultimately require pruning to maintain safe clearance from the wires. Trees toppling into overhead power lines can become a public safety hazard and disrupt your electric service. Therefore it is best not to plant tall-growing trees under or near power lines.

You should not attempt to trim any vegetation growing near or on any overhead power lines. Only specially trained line-clearing professionals should work around power lines.

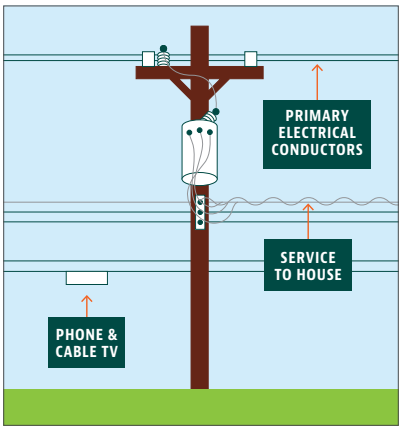
TRANSFORMERS FOR UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

We need room to work safely on this device. Please keep shrubs and structures 10 feet away from the front and 3 feet from other sides.



Obstructions may be damaged or removed during service restoration or maintenance.

ELECTRIC LINES usually are located at the top of the pole, farthest from the ground. Cable TV and telephone lines run closer to the ground, below power lines.



PLEASE CALL 811 to identify both underground and overhead utilities before digging and when working near overhead lines. Customers are asked to call the Utilities Protection Center at **811** before digging in an area with underground services. Within 2 full business days of notice a utility representative will inspect the property to locate and mark any buried wires. There is no charge for this service.

The **Overhead Protection Act** also requires, by law, that anyone doing work in the vicinity of overhead high voltage lines must notify **Georgia 811** at least 72 hours in advance.

It's All In The Planning

If planting close to power lines or within the easement area, follow guidelines described in this brochure.

BELOW WIRE AREA (WIRE ZONE)

Underneath the wires and next to the structures, low growing grasses and perennials work well. Personal gardens are permitted but must allow utility trucks to travel down the right of way so workers may perform maintenance on a routine basis.

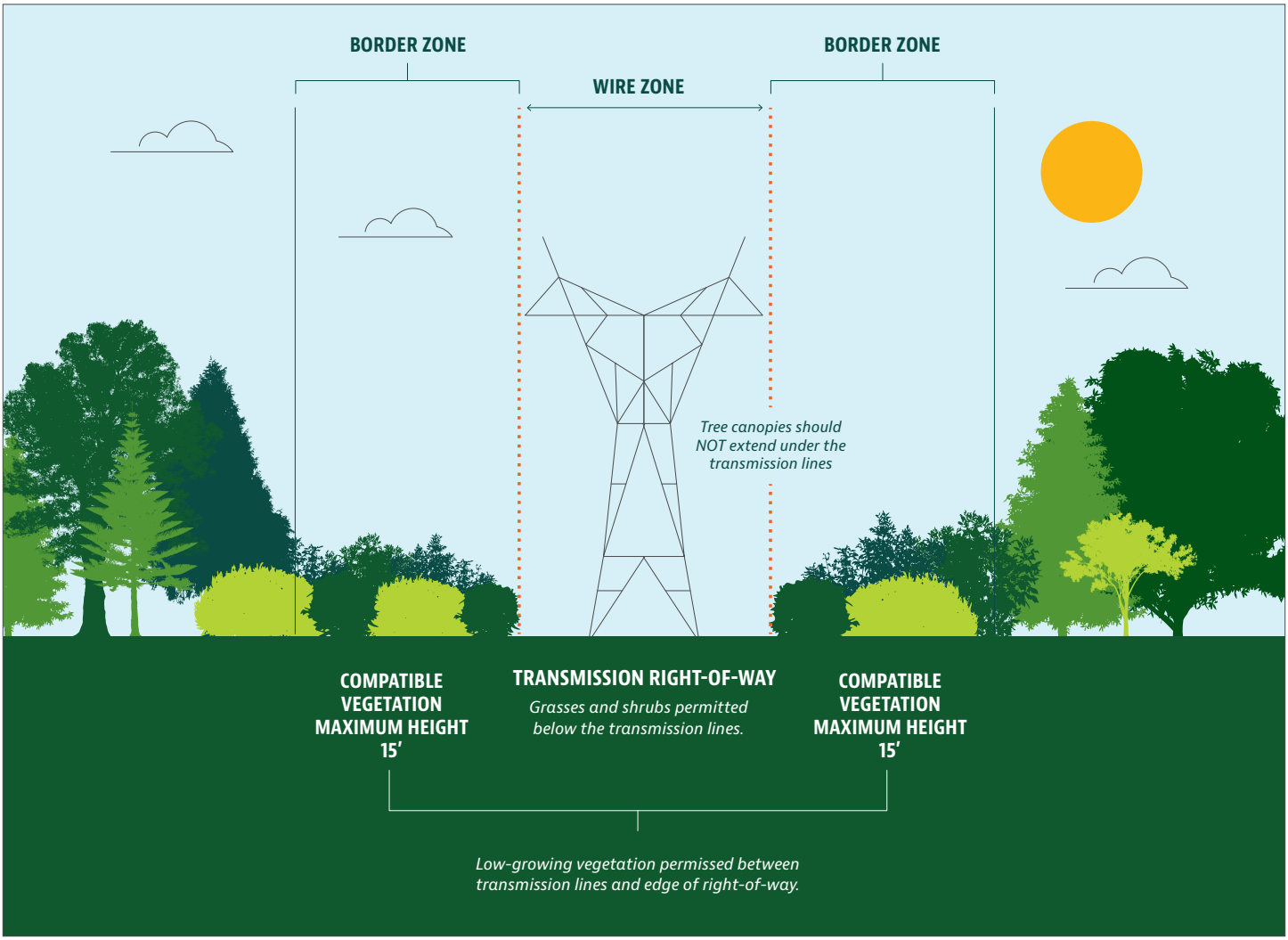
The area below the wires presents a unique opportunity to naturalize the power line rights of way using native grass species. Native warm season grasses once inhabited open areas known as barrens in the Southern region of the United States. Today, due to development and urbanization, only a fraction of this grassland remains.

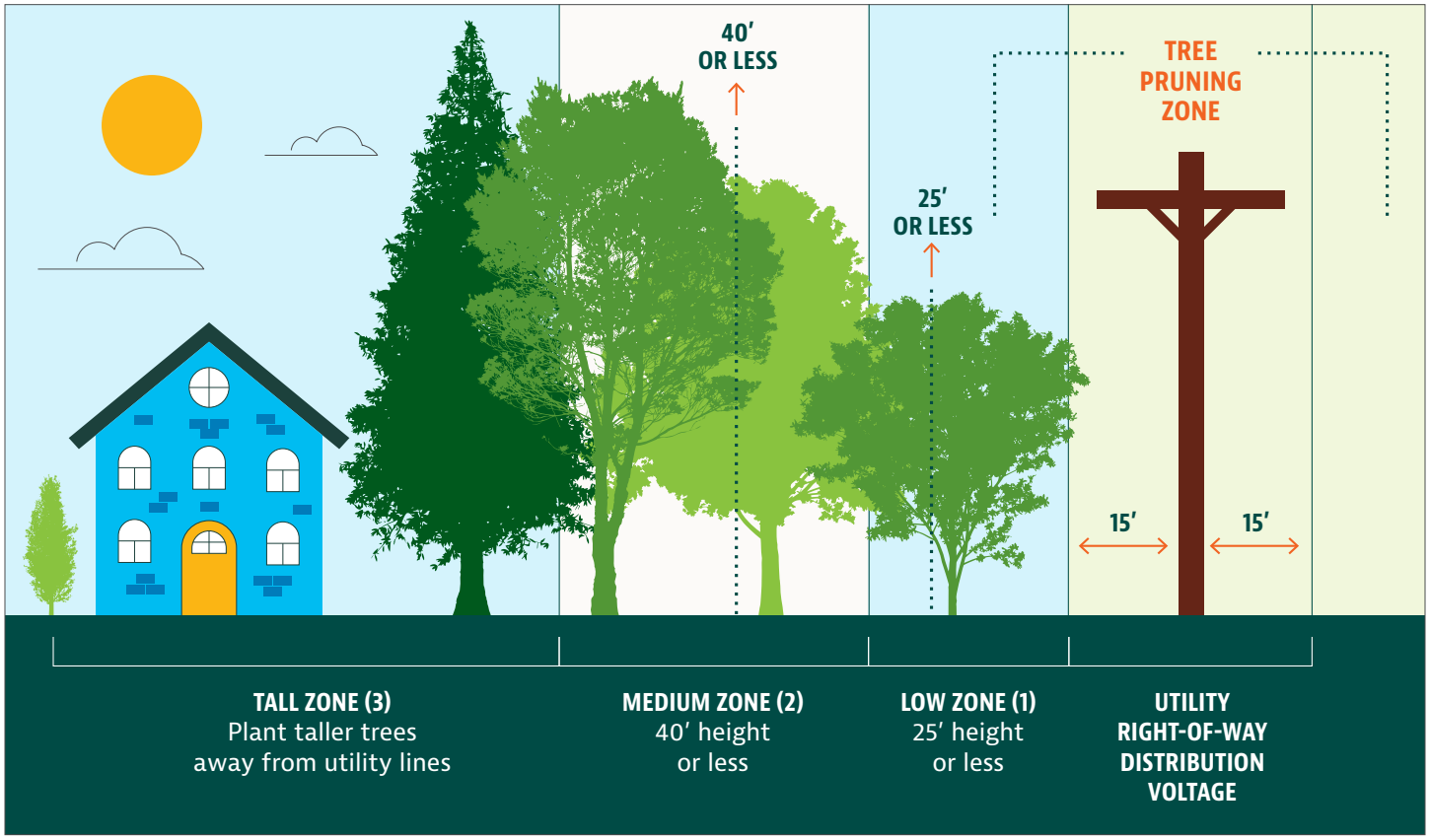
Grasses and perennials provide wildlife habitat, promote biodiversity of plant and animal species, prevent erosion, ensure safe access to the power line and minimize maintenance, which reduces cost and the need for frequent intrusion. In addition, ground covers and annual vegetable gardens also are allowed in this area.

REMAINING RIGHT-OF-WAY AREA (BORDER ZONE)

Compatible Vegetation up to a maximum height of 15 feet are allowed in the remaining area of the right of way. Plants that exceed 15 feet will be removed.

This area allows for mosaic of vegetation up to 15 feet in height. The taller plants provide screening, seasonal interest and privacy along the right of way. Smaller ornamental shrubs and perennial edible plants such as blueberries and blackberries are also permitted.





TALL ZONE (3)

You may use larger types of trees in zone 3, including trees that grow 60 feet in height, but you should consider your neighbor's view and landscaping. Plant large trees at least 35 feet away from the house for proper root development and to minimize possible tree damage to your house or building. Higher trees could be used in any location 50 feet or more from power lines. Trees near your house can provide energy benefits by providing cooling shade in summer and giving protection from winter winds.

MEDIUM ZONE (2)

This zone is for trees that grow no taller than 40 feet and includes your lawn area. Landscaping should decorate or frame your home instead of hiding it from sight. Select trees first, then plant shrubs to complement the trees. Trees that grow no more than 40 feet in height are recommended for areas adjacent to the low zone to avoid branches that overhang power lines or trees that could topple over into the lines during severe storms.

LOW ZONE (1)

These are plant species that will not exceed 25 feet in height in the area adjacent to the Utility Right-of-Way. Taller existing trees in this zone will be pruned by the utility company to grow away from the lines.

In some cases, trees may be considered for removal by the utility company.

UTILITY RIGHT-OF-WAY

Areas directly under lines and adjacent to poles should be kept clear of trees and shrubs to provide safe access for utility workers (and to avoid damage to landscaping when maintenance or repairs are needed). It is important to note that high-voltage transmission lines require a larger clearance zone. A utility representative can assist in determining if a high-voltage line is located on the right-of-way adjacent to customers' property. Call the Forestry and Right of Way Services department at **1.877.276.0578**.

Recommended Trees And Shrubs

Do not plant directly under overhead lines

Georgia Power has determined specific trees and ornamentals acceptable for planting within the easement. In order to qualify for consideration, these trees must be planted in a landscaped area. This area shall be maintained by the property owner in such a fashion that it is obvious to all that it is a landscaped area. If any trees are planted in an area where right-of-way crews could mistake it for brush, it will likely be cut down.

Generally, shrubs, vegetable gardens, grasses and low-growing trees with a mature height of less than 15 feet are allowed on the easement area if they do not block or restrict access to the area and are not planted in a location that could threaten the continued safe and reliable operation of the power line. It is important to follow the specific cultivar listed as others may not be compatible. The source used to determine the mature height is the **Manual of Woody Landscape Plants by Dr. Michael A. Dirr**.

For more information visit **georgiapower.com/trees**.

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	TYPE	MATURE HEIGHT
Acer palmatum 'Dissectum'	Laceleaf Japanese Maple	Deciduous	10'
Aesculus parviflora	Bottlebrush Buckeye	Deciduous	15'
Buddleia davidii	Butterfly Bush	Deciduous	10'
Camellia japonica	Japanese Camellia	Evergreen	15'
Camellia sasanqua	Sasanqua	Evergreen	10'
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush	Deciduous	15'
Cephalotaxus harringtonia 'Prostrata'	Japanese Plum Yew	Evergreen	4'
Cercis chinensis	Chinese Redbud	Deciduous	15'
Corylopsis glabrescens	Fragrant Winterhazel	Deciduous	15'
Cotinus coggyria	Common Smoketree	Deciduous	15'
Forsythia x intermedia	Forsythia	Deciduous	10'
Gardenia jasminoides	Gardenia	Evergreen	8'
Hibiscus syriacus	Rose-of-Sharon	Deciduous	12'
Hydrangea quercifolia	Oakleaf Hydrangea	Deciduous	12'
Ilex cornuta 'Carissa'	Carissa Holly	Evergreen	4'
Ilex crenata 'Soft Touch'	Soft Touch Holly	Evergreen	3'
Ilex glabra	Inkberry	Evergreen	8'
Ilex verticilata	Comon Winterberry	Deciduous	8'
Illicium floridanum	Florida Anise Tree	Evergreen	12'

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	TYPE	MATURE HEIGHT
Illicium parviflorum	Small Anise Tree	Evergreen	10'
Itea virginica	Virginia Sweetspire	Deciduous	10'
Lagerstroemia indica 'Monow'	Petite Snow Crape Myrtle	Deciduous	5'
Lagerstroemia indica 'Moonlight Magic'	Moonlight Crape Myrtle	Deciduous	12'
Lagerstroemia indica 'Red Rocket'	Red Rocket Crape Myrtle	Deciduous	15'
Lagerstroemia indica 'Tonto'	Tonto Crape Myrtle	Deciduous	10'
Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei 'Acoma'	Acoma Crape Myrtle	Deciduous	10'
Loropetalum chinense 'Ruby'	Ruby Loropetalum	Evergreen	10'
Loropetalum chinense 'Sizzlin Pink'	Sizzlin Pink Loropetalum	Evergreen	10'
Michelia figo	Banana Shrub	Evergreen	10'
Rhaphiolepis umbrellata	Indian Hawthorne	Evergreen	15'
Rhododendron 'Conlef'	Autumn Cheer Azalea	Evergreen	3'
Styrax americanus	American Snowbell	Deciduous	10'
Styrax grandifolius	Bigleaf Snowball	Deciduous	15'
Ternstroemia gymnanthera	Cleyera	Evergreen	15'
Thuja occidentalis 'Emerald'	Emerald Green Arborvitae	Evergreen	15'
Vaccinium corymbosum	Highbush Blueberry	Deciduous	12'
Viburnum plicatum var. tomentosum	Doublefile Viburnum	Deciduous	10'
Vitex agnus-castus	Chastetree	Deciduous	12'

For more information, contact the organizations below:

Georgia Power
georgiapower.com/trees
1.877.276.0578

International Society of Arboriculture
isa-arbor.com

Georgia Tree Council
gatreecouncil.org

National Arbor Day Foundation
arborday.org

Georgia Forestry Comission
gatrees.org

Trees Atlanta
treesatlanta.org

University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry
warnell.uga.edu/forestry

Georgia Vegetation Management Association
gvmaweb.com

American Forests
americanforests.org

Georgia Arborist Association
georgiaarborist.org

GEORGIA811
Contact 811 before you dig.

For more information visit **georgiapower.com/trees**.

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