

TREE PLANTING GUIDE

PLANT THE RIGHT TREE
IN THE RIGHT PLACE.



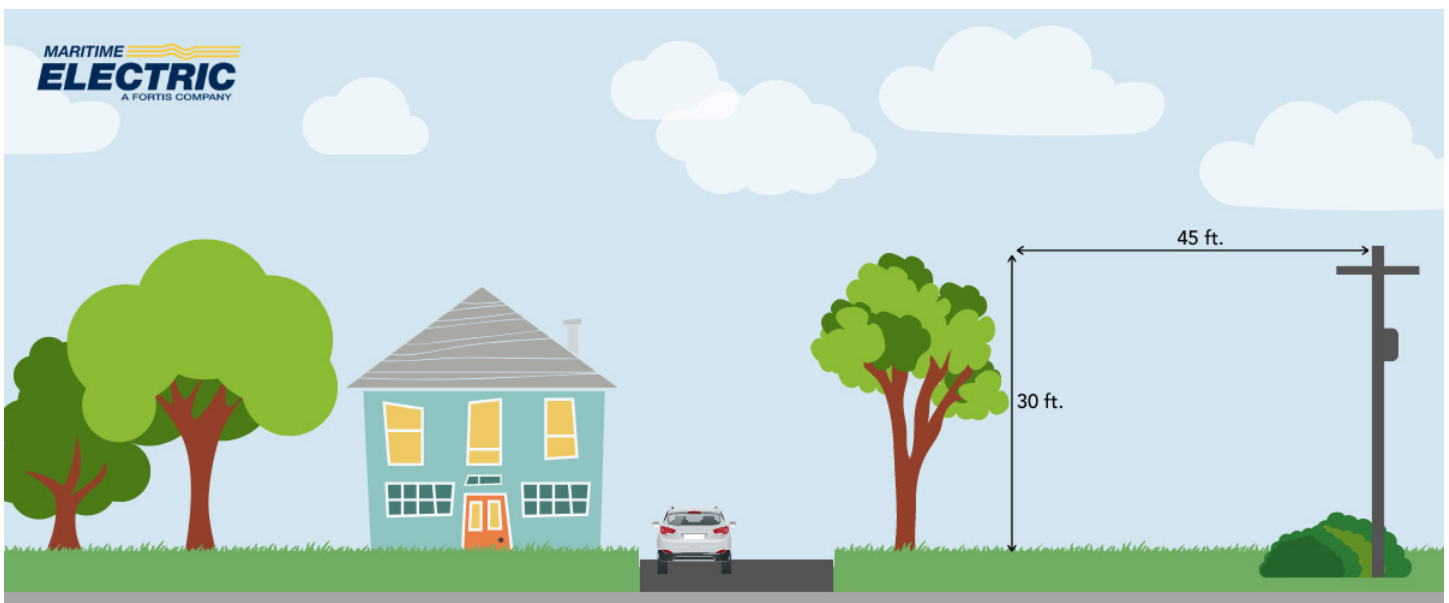
Trees and Power Lines

We are committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity for our customers. We also know the importance of planting trees for our environment and communities and plant many trees through corporate programs each year. However, planting trees near or under power lines will result in power outages and create a future public safety hazard. Trees and wind are the number one cause of power outages in Prince Edward Island. Trees planted near and under power lines interfere with the electrical equipment and the reliability of the power being delivered to your home, neighbours and wider community. This is especially true during adverse weather events including high winds and ice storms.

We regularly trim trees away from power lines to ensure the reliability of our electrical system and reduce the risk of public safety hazards, but we need your help. We encourage you to read through this guide, which will assist you in making informed decisions about planting the right tree in the right place. Not only will planting your tree in the right place ensure the best chances of your tree establishing and growing to maturity, but it will also ensure the reliability of the electrical system in your community.

Plan Before You Plant

If you are planting a new tree, consider how large it will grow and what it will look like in 10 or even 20 years. Before choosing a place to plant your tree, contact your local tree nursery to determine the mature height of the tree. A 30 ft. tree at maturity should be planted at least 45 ft. away from power lines to help ensure it will not interfere with the power lines in the future. The taller the tree, the further away the tree needs to be planted from the power lines to ensure the reliability of the power system. Only low growing species should be planted in proximity to power lines.



Choosing Trees for your Island Property

Planting native species is highly recommended as they have adapted for thousands of years to survive and thrive in the conditions on Prince Edward Island. Native species also work to protect the soil and waterways and provide a multitude of other benefits to the PEI ecosystem. Visit [MacPhail Woods Ecological Forestry Project's website](#) for a list of native tree species.



White Spruce

- Mature height: 78 to 98 ft
- Grows best in full sun
- Ideal for hedgerows, in old fields and along the coastline
- **Plant very far away from power lines**



Sugar Maple

- Mature height: Up to 115 ft
- Grows best in rich, well-drained soil and in dry areas with partial shade
- Does not tolerate windy areas
- **Plant very far away from power lines**



Red Maple

- Mature height: Up to 82 ft
- Grows best in rich and moist soil, often found near streams and swamps
- Tolerates some shade
- **Plant very far away from power lines**

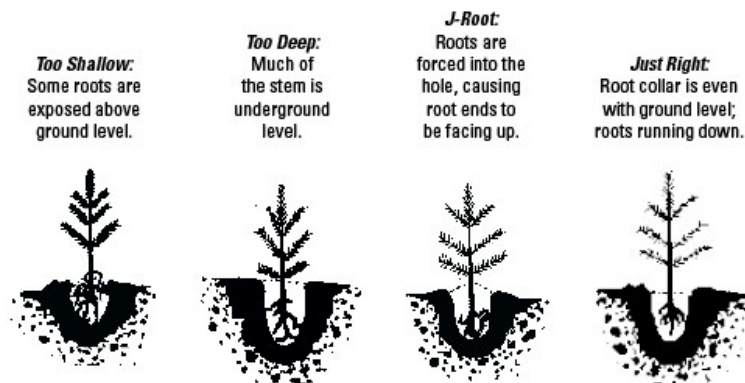


Red Oak

- Mature height: Up to 65 to 98 ft
- Grows best in well-drained soil
- Does not tolerate windy areas or very wet soil
- **Plant very far away from power lines**

Planting Instructions

1. Identify the trunk flare, which is where the trunk expands at the base of the tree. This point should be partially visible after the tree has been planted.
2. Dig a shallow, broad planting hole that is twice as wide and just as deep as the pot. If the tree is planted too deep new roots will have difficulty developing because of a lack of oxygen.
3. Remove broken or damaged branches. Remove the plastic container and spread the roots out. Inspect the root balls for circling roots. If there are a lot of them circling after being confined in the pot straighten them out or cut them with a knife.
4. If the surrounding soil is dry add water to the hole. Add compost and mix it with the loose soil in the hole.
5. Straighten the tree in the hole. Before backfilling, have someone view the tree from several directions to confirm it is straight.
6. Fill the hole gently but firmly. Pack soil around the base and sides of the root ball to stabilize it.
7. Create a barrier with soil around the tree to hold water.



Mulching the Base

1. Apply a 2 to 4 inch (5 to 10 cm) layer of mulch (less if poorly drained). Coarse mulches can be applied slightly deeper without harm. Mulch should not come in contact with the tree trunk.
2. Place mulch out to the edge of a tree's crown or beyond. Trees like their entire root systems to be mulched.

Watering

Water your newly planted tree twice per week for the first two months, or three times per week in the summer months.

Weeding

Keep the area around your newly planted tree weed free. Hand pull weeds to avoid damaging the trunk with a lawnmower or weed trimmer.

Fertilizing

Fertilize your new trees annually. Fertilizers with a high nitrogen content are recommended for trees under three years old. Follow the instructions on the package to ensure proper amounts and application.

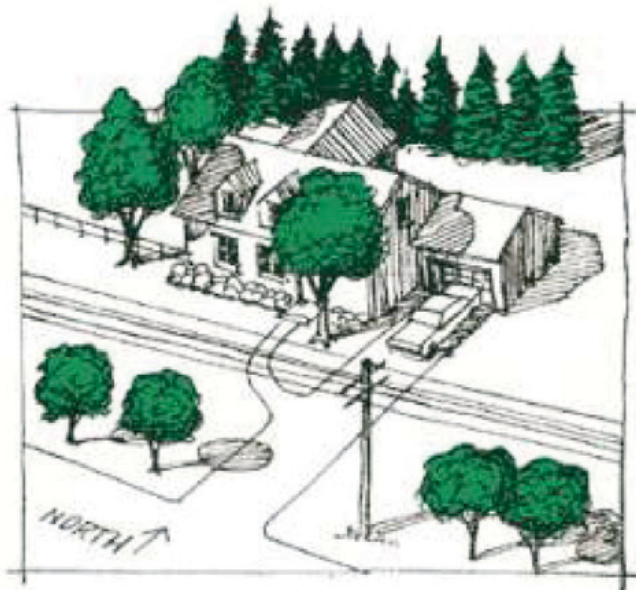
Plant for Energy Efficiency

Properly selected and planted trees around a home can also improve energy efficiency. When trees are planted in the right places they can provide you with energy savings by shielding cold winds during the winter months. Here are a few tips:

- Plant a windbreak of evergreens to the north and west of your house (away from power lines) to provide shelter from the cold winter winds and to help save energy in winter.
- Plant deciduous trees on west and southwest sides (away from power lines) since these trees lose their leaves in the winter. This will allow sunlight to help with heating and therefore help reduce your energy costs.

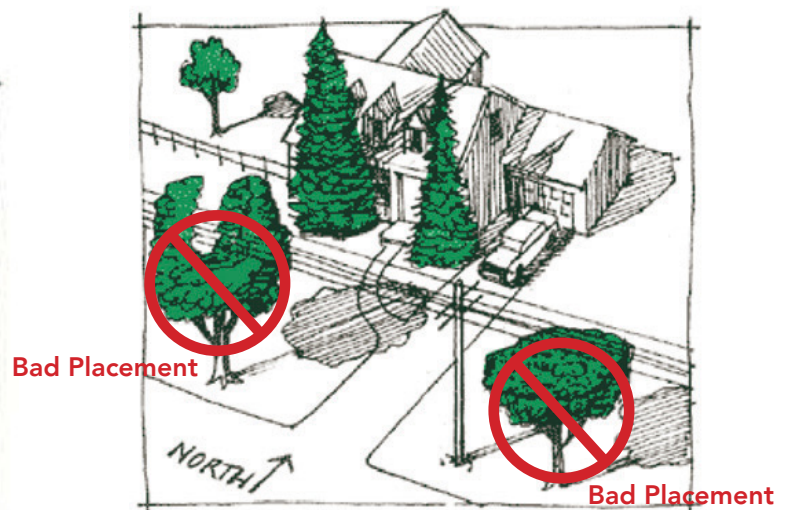
Good Placement

Deciduous trees are planted to the south and west of the house. These trees will let the warm sun shine into the house in the winter. The windbreak of evergreens to the north side of the property will shelter the house in winter.



Bad Placement

Large trees placed under the power lines have to be trimmed. The large evergreen planted on the south side of the house will prevent the winter sun from warming the house.



Tree Trimming

We understand the importance of planting trees for our environment and communities. However, our ability to provide safe and reliable electricity to over 87,000 customers is affected by the growth of trees. We trim and remove trees to maintain the proper clearance from power lines to ensure the reliability of our system, as well as the safety of Islanders.

Our tree trimming program is aimed at keeping over 6,600 km of transmission and distribution lines clear of trees and undergrowth. Through our focus on effective vegetation management, which includes periodic inspections of power lines, we identify trees that are growing too close to power lines and thus, cause concern for public safety and reliability.

Although it is not possible to predict or foresee all tree-related problems, our tree trimming program is designed to trim trees before safety or reliability problems occur.

Professional Care

We employ contractors whose skilled, professional crews trim trees to provide enough clearance between limbs with minimum inconvenience to you, our customers.

We encourage our contractors to use a natural trimming method, which is proven to be the best method for the long-term health of the tree. They do their best to redirect growth away from the power lines, creating sufficient clearance so that the tree will remain safe until we return for the next routine maintenance.

Never attempt to prune or trim trees near power lines yourself. Contact with a power line can result in serious injury or even death.



Vegetation and trees have been cleared from power lines to ensure correct distance and safety requirements are in place.

Stay Safe Around Trees

At Maritime Electric, we believe safety must be integrated in all we do.

When a tree or a large branch falls onto a power line, as sometimes happens during storms, it can bring down the power line. If anyone touches a downed power line that is still energized, the result can be serious injury, even death.

Children do not always know, or remember, what can be dangerous, so it is up to the rest of us to watch out for their safety. Never build a tree house in the trees near power lines and be careful not to allow kids to climb trees growing near power lines. Teach them to tell an adult if they discover downed power lines in the area. Never attempt to touch an object tangled in a power line. Call Maritime Electric at **1-800-670-1012**, for assistance.

Our Commitment to the Environment

Introduced in 2019, Trees for Life is a Maritime Electric employee tree planting event that focuses on community engagement and sustainability. Each year, Maritime Electric purchases trees from Island nurseries and plants them in September at Island schools or parks. Since the program began, we've planted hundreds of trees across the Island.

To read more about Trees for Life, and our sustainability goals, visit www.maritimeelectric.com/sustainability.

Let's Work Together

We take our job of providing electricity to your home and community very seriously and we appreciate cooperation in supporting our vegetation management program. By working together, we can ensure the safety of you, your families and our employees.

For further information on tree safety or to report a downed limb or limbs in contact with power lines, visit us online at maritimeelectric.com or call us at **1-800-670-1012**.

The Power of a Moment

If you knew that cutting a tree around an energized power line could cause you or others serious injury or even death, wouldn't you take a moment to look up? NEVER cut or trim trees near power lines and NEVER attempt to remove a tree that has fallen into a power line.

Contractors, be sure your employees know the dangers of working near power lines. It is your responsibility to ensure they follow the Occupational Health and Safety regulations to protect themselves and others. Put safety first, look up before you cut.

Safety is our priority. Make it yours too!

All our energy.
All the time.

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