

How the program works

When we visit your area, we will evaluate the safety and security of the lines and identify those trees that need to be trimmed. As a courtesy, a PPCS representative or its contractor will make every attempt to contact each property owner involved before starting any work to explain what needs to be done. **Note:** Should a tree on your property cause an outage or pose an imminent safety hazard, the necessary work will be done immediately without notification.

Because of the need to balance reliability and safety with aesthetics, PPCS offers options when the cooperative needs to do tree work on a member's property. The following options are provided at the member's expense. Contact PPCS for information.

- Reduced Right-of-Way (Trimming) Clearance
- Line Relocation or Conversion
- Transplant Trees

The right tree in the right place

Smart planting saves the need for trimming in the future. The key is to select the right kind of tree for the location. Avoid planting any tree directly beneath power lines. As the diagram shows, trees should not be planted or transplanted within 15 feet on either side of the pole line if it is a yard tree (urban) or within 20 feet on either side of the pole line for non-yard trees (rural). Plant taller trees farther away to ensure they can't grow into power lines. If you want to plant a tree that grows tall – maple, oak, pine or spruce – make sure it is at least 45 feet from the nearest overhead lines.

Helpful hints for planting safe and smart

- Before you dig, call Digger's Hotline at 800-242-8511 or Email-A-Locate at www.diggershotline.com for the exact location of electric lines and other utility services buried underground.
- Deciduous (leaf dropping) trees should be planted on the south and west sides of your home to cool in the summer and allow sun to enter the house in the winter.
- Evergreen trees should be planted on the north and west sides of your home where they will serve as a windbreak against cold winter winds.



**For more information
about planting the right tree
in the right place, visit
www.treesaregood.com
or contact**

Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services.

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Trees and Power Lines

Protecting You and the Environment



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Vegetation Management Program

Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services (PPCS) strives to ensure our members of safe, reliable electric service with as little effect on our landscape as possible. That's why PPCS works year round to make sure power lines and other utility structures have proper clearance from trees, shrubs and brush. Trees interfering with power lines can eventually cause outages and fires, slow maintenance and repairs, endanger lives and property, and even waste energy.

PPCS' Vegetation Management Program controls trees, shrubs and brush growing around our facilities and equipment. Every five to six years, trained, qualified line clearance experts visit your neighborhood to do preventive tree trimming and clearing.

Here's how you can help. Simply follow the guidelines outlined in this brochure to determine where your trees will be located in relation to overhead and underground utility lines.

Why we trim and remove trees

A primary cause of power outages and blinks is trees contacting power lines. When tree limbs grow too close to power lines they can cause damage or interrupt your service. In a storm, the wind, snow or ice can force the limbs on those trees to knock power lines out completely. Another concern is your safety. Trees too close to power lines can present a dangerous and sometimes deadly situation. A child, for example, who climbs a tree that is in contact with a power line could be seriously injured or even killed.

The necessary line clearance depends on the voltage in the lines. With primary, high-voltage overhead distribution lines, the recommended minimum clearance is 15 feet on either side of the pole line for yard trees (urban) and 20 feet on either side of the pole line for non-yard trees (rural). The primary

lines supply power up to the transformer that serves your home or business. With secondary and service wires, which are the low-voltage lines from the transformer to your service location, the recommended clearance is up to 10 feet.

Remember, too, that some lines are underground. PPCS requires a minimum clearance of 20 feet on each side of underground cable to accommodate the trenching equipment used to replace, repair or upgrade underground cable.

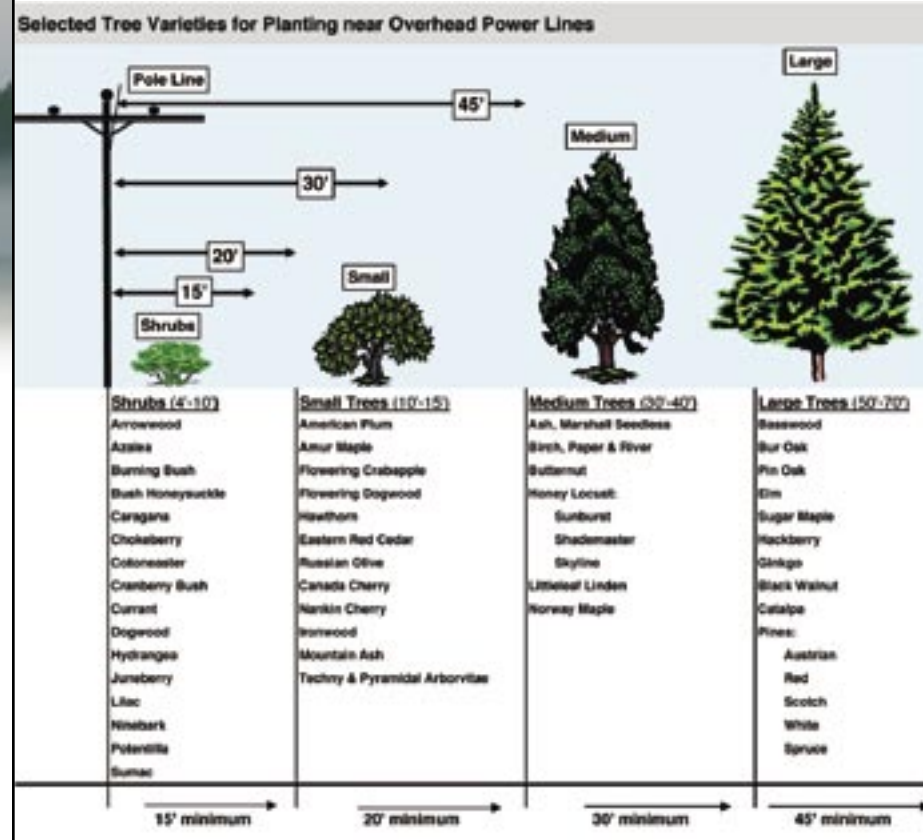
Tree trimming or removal

Any tree with limbs that grow through or around power lines will be trimmed. We also remove branches growing above lines where snow or ice could cause limbs to sag or fall into live lines. The distance a tree is trimmed depends on the type of tree and the power line voltage. In extreme cases, we may remove an entire tree that, because of where it is planted or how it grows, could endanger lives. This includes trees that are weak, diseased, drying or severely damaged.

Distribution lines normally require a corridor up to 40 feet wide or more that is clear of trees. Tree species within that corridor will be removed during the cooperative's regular clearing cycle and an approved sprout inhibitor placed on the stumps. Rural rights-of-way containing young trees and brush will be treated with approved herbicide.

Debris disposal

Trees that are cut will be left full length for the property owner's use. Smaller debris, including wood, brush or wood chips, is spread or piled along the edge of the cleared area. If trimming or clearing is done near homes, the debris is chipped



and removed, or mowing may be an option. Special requests should be discussed with a PPCS representative.

Property owners or homeowners are responsible for dead or diseased trees and disposal of any debris resulting from a storm or emergency trimming.

About oak wilt

Oak wilt is caused by a fungus that enters an oak through either a root graft or a fresh wound. The fungus invades water-conducting vessels and produces balloon-like projections called tyloses that also plug the vessels. The lack of water flow causes leaves to wilt rapidly and fall from the tree.

PPCS does not trim oak trees during the infectious period (April 1 through July 15) to help prevent the spread of oak wilt, except in emergencies. In such cases, proper pruning techniques are used and the wounds are painted immediately with a special paint.