



**A**t Alabama 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 our customers with other valuable services that may be unrelated to generating electricity.

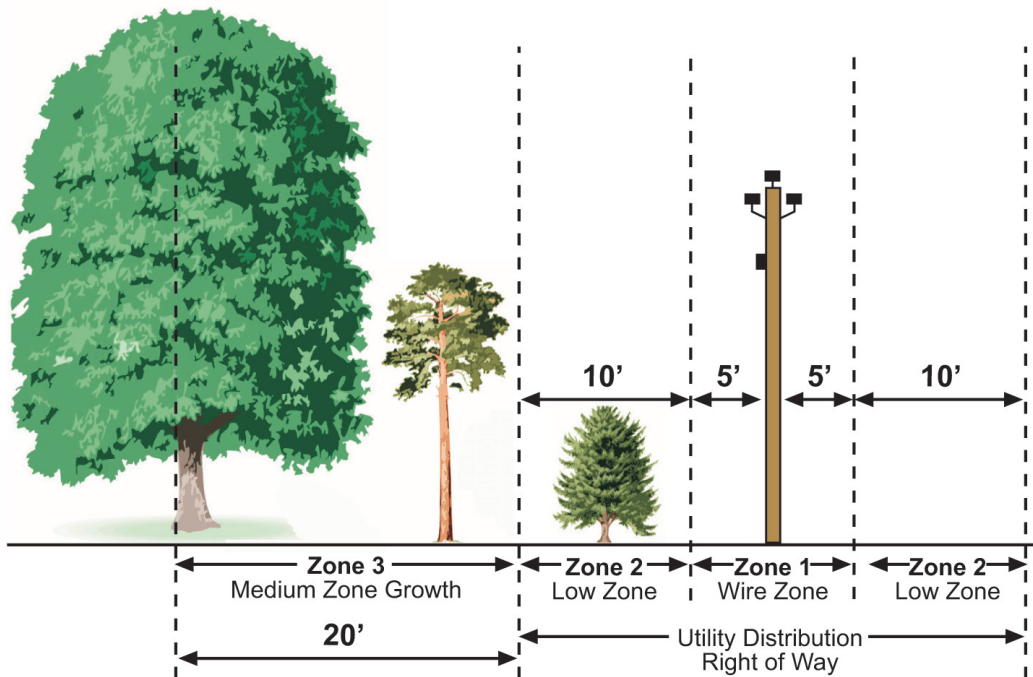
For example, we want to help our customers make the right decisions about planting trees – where to plant, what to plant, how to plant – and

anything else related to preserving your trees to create attractive landscapes in our communities. Distribution and Transmission Rights-of-Way (ROWs) are commonplace in our communities and are the means by which we deliver energy to homes and businesses. The image above is one example of what a Distribution ROW may look like. We hope this brochure helps you with your tree-planting decisions as they relate to Alabama Power rights-of-way.

# Planting Guide

Plant the Right Tree  
in the Right Place

Plant taller trees away from  
overhead utility lines

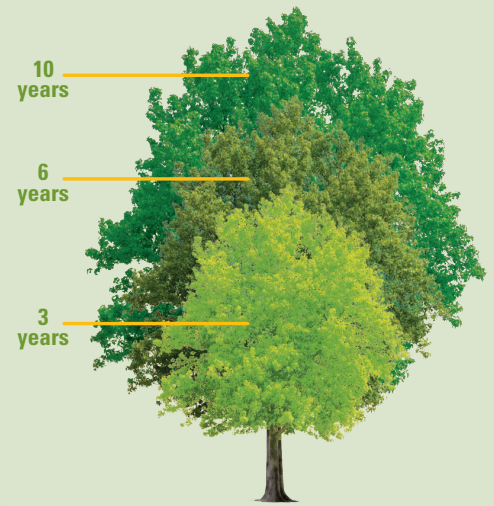


Always Consider the Ultimate  
Mature Size When Planning

10  
years

6  
years

3  
years



## Distribution Power Line Rights Of Way

### Zone 1 - Wire Zone:

Planting any vegetation directly under distribution power lines should be kept to a minimum. Trees should never be planted directly under the power lines. Shrubs and flowers that do not exceed a mature height of 10 feet may be planted in this zone as long as access along the power line is not blocked.

### Zone 2 - Low Growth Zone:

This zone is generally 5' to 15' away from the center of the distribution line. Low growing ornamental trees that do not

exceed a mature height of 15' may be planted in this zone. When choosing a location to plant remember that no trees should be planted within 15' of the poles or structures.

### Zone 3 - Medium Growth Zone:

Careful consideration should be given to trees planted adjacent to distribution line rights of way. Remember, when you plant a tree seedling it may appear a long way from the power line; but as the tree grows to maturity the crown of the tree will likely spread 20 to 30 feet in every direction from where you have dug the hole.

Trees with large crowns planted too close to the power lines will eventually require extensive side trimming. This may detract from the aesthetics of the tree.

**For information on tree and shrub planting near distribution lines please call Alabama Power Contract Services (205) 257-6868 and ask to speak to someone in Distribution Vegetation Management.**

## Remember - The Right Tree in The Right Place

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 slightly above 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.

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 newly planted tree must have enough space away from power lines and in an area large enough to accommodate the canopy and root system of the mature size.

Planting tall growing trees 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 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.



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.

**Make sure there are no buried wires before digging in the spot for your new tree.**

## Recommended Planting

### Zone 1, 2 & 3

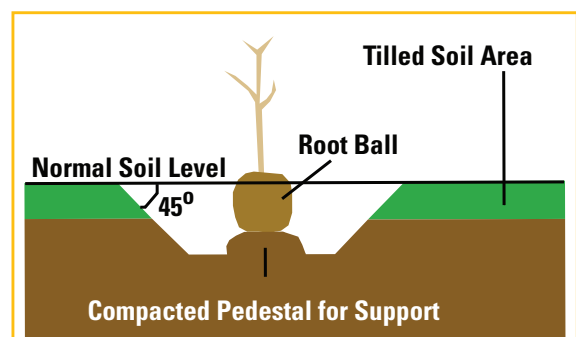
Azalea	Rhododendron spp.
Forsythia	Forsythia spp.
Holly, Chinese	Ilex cornuta
Hydrangea	Hydrangea spp.
Olive, Tea	Osmanthus fortunea spp.

### Zone 2 & 3

Apricot, Japanese	Prunus mume
Bottlebrush Buckeye	Aesulus parviflora
Boxwood, Common	Buxus sempervirens
Camellia	Camellia spp.
Crapemyrtle	Lagerstroemia spp.
Fringe Tree	Chionanthus virginicus
Dogwood	Cornus spp.
Firethorn, Formosa	Pyracantha koidsumii
Holly, Burford	Ilex cornuta "Burford"
Holly, Nellie R. Stevens	Ilex aquifolium x ilex cornuta
Holly, Yaupon	ilex vomitoria
Maple, Japanese Dwarf	Acer palmatum
Olive, Fragrant	Osmanthus fragrans
Olive, Holly Tea	Osmanthus herterophyllus
Pomegranate	Punica granatum
Seviceberry	Amelanchier spp.
Viburnum	Viburnum spp.
Waxmyrtle	Myrica spp.
Winged Euonymus	Euonymus alatus
Witchhazel	Hamamelis spp.

### Zone 3

Baldcypress	Taxodium distichum
Blackgum	Nyssa sylvatica
Loblolly pine	Pinus teada
Red maple	Acer rubrum
Southern magnolia	Magnolia grandiflora
Sweetgum	Liquidambar styraciflua
Willow Oak	Quercus phellos
Yellow-poplar	Liriodendron tulipifera



Dig planting holes so the tree sits at its normal level in the soil. Holes should have highly slanted sides. The root ball should protrude above the soil level.



## Alabama Power Company Transmission Rights-of-Way

**A**labama Power Company manages vegetation on its 100,000 plus acres of transmission rights-of-way to ensure the public safety and reliability of its transmission system. Integrated vegetation management (IVM) is a process that balances the use of mechanical, chemical, cultural and biological treatments to establish and maintain a vegetative cover type that is compatible with the environment. Alabama Power Company's Transmission vegetation management program utilizes IVM to control vegetation growing on the ground floor as well as along the sides and adjacent to the right of way.

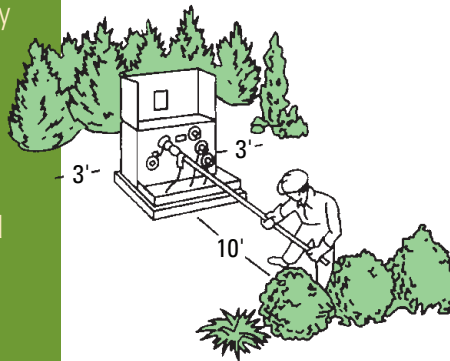
Greater distances are required between vegetation and transmission lines because of the higher voltages and greater movement of conductors in transmission lines. If a tree makes contact with a transmission line, hazardous electric current is injected into the ground that can travel across local underground cables and pipes causing severe damage to public and private property.

For more detailed information regarding Alabama Power Company's Transmission Vegetation Management Program including information on what can be planted on a transmission line right of way please contact Alabama Power Contract Services and ask to speak to someone in Transmission Vegetation Management.

## Transformers for Underground Utilities

**W**e need room to work safely on this device. Please plant shrubs at least 10 feet away from the front and 3 feet from other sides.

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



**C**ustomers are asked to call the Alabama One Call - (dial 811 or 1-800-292-8525) 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 underground Alabama Power lines. *There is no charge for this service.*

**For more information, contact the organizations below.**

**Alabama Urban Forest Council**  
[www.aufa.org](http://www.aufa.org)  
**International Society of Arboriculture**  
[www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com)  
**National Arbor Day Foundation**  
[www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

**Alabama Vegetation Management Society**  
[www.avmsonline.org](http://www.avmsonline.org)  
**Alabama Power Contract Services**  
205-257-6868  
**Alabama One Call**  
811 or 1-800-292-8525