

Right-of-Way Maintenance

Keeping the right-of-way clear of trees and brush is crucial to the cooperative providing reliable and affordable power to its members.



Can you locate the electric pole or lines in this picture? The pole top is visible just above the trees in the center of the picture.

Keeping right-of-way clean is accomplished by dozing, spraying, trimming and removal of trees under power lines.



The picture is the same as the top picture with right-of-way cut to allow clearance and keep trees from coming in contact with lines. Clearing like this also reduces outage time, because it makes it easier for workers to check lines for problems.

Importance of a Clear Right-Of-Way

Trees planted in utility easements create a potentially dangerous safety hazard by providing a possibility for children or adults to come in contact with power lines. When a tree limb comes in contact with lines, there is a definite chance of a shock injury.

Trees also increase the chance of blinking lights or power outages. They can also increase the length of outage time by preventing equipment access and reducing visibility. If crews can't see down the right-of-way, they must search among the branches to locate problems.

Planting trees close to lines increases Southern Iowa Electric's maintenance costs, and that cost can be reflected in electric rates.

Southern Iowa Electric's Tree Removal Process

When a member allows the Cooperative to remove yard trees interfering with power lines, contracted crews will take the tree down and chip up brush. The larger sections may be cut up and left for the member, if the member so wishes. If the member prefers that these larger sections be removed from their premises and the wood is in an accessible area, SIEC will contract with a provider to do so. If a member would like the stump to be ground, SIEC will also provide that service through a contractor.



**Southern Iowa
Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Clear Safe Reliable



Our goal at Southern Iowa Electric is to provide safe, reliable electricity and keep our member rates low. With the help of our members, Southern Iowa Electric plans to maintain an aggressive right-of-way program to provide safe, reliable service and reduce future cost to members by keeping our lines clear of trees and overgrown vegetation.



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Electric Cooperative**

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Bloomfield, IA 52537**

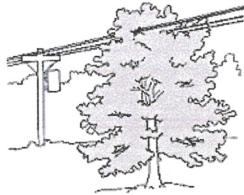
**Phone: (641) 664-2277
or (800) 607-2027**



Trees & Utility Conflicts

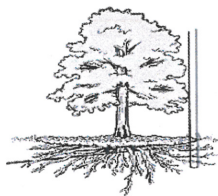
Determining where to plant a tree is a decision that should not be taken lightly. Many factors should be considered prior to planting. When planting, remember to look up and down to determine where the tree will be located in relation to overhead and underground utility lines.

Often, we take utility services for granted because they have become a part of our daily lives. These services arrive at our homes through overhead or underground lines. The location of these lines should have a direct impact on the type of tree and the planting site selection. The mature height of a tree must be within the available overhead growing space. The soil area must also be large enough to accommodate rooting habits and trunk diameter of the tree.



Overhead Lines

Overhead utility lines are the easiest to see and probably the ones we take most for granted. Tall growing trees near overhead lines can cause service interruptions when they contact wires. Children or adults climbing in these trees can be severely injured or even killed if they come in contact with the wires. Proper selection and placement of trees in and around overhead utilities can eliminate potential public safety hazards, reduce expenses for utilities and their rate payers, and improve the appearance of landscapes.



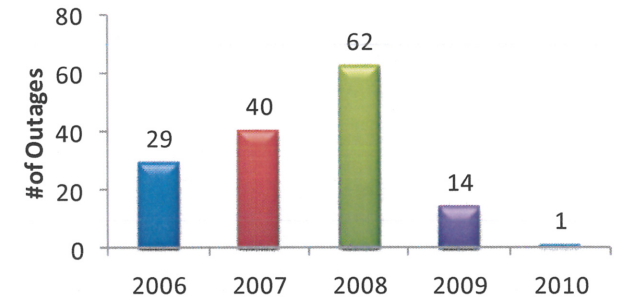
Underground Lines

Trees are much more than just what you see overhead. Many times, the root area is larger than the branch spread above ground. Tree roots and underground lines often coexist without problems. However, trees planted near underground lines could have their roots damaged if the lines need to be dug up for repairs. The biggest danger to underground lines occurs during planting. Before you plant, make sure that you are

aware of the location of any underground utilities and try to stay 10 feet away from underground lines and enclosures. To be certain that you do not accidentally dig into any lines and risk serious injury or a costly service interruption, call Iowa One Call, to have utilities marked, at **811** or **1-800-292-8989**.

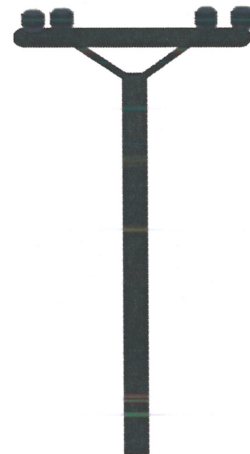
Planting the right tree in the right place can add beauty to a home and its surroundings. Choosing the correct location will prevent costly maintenance, trimming, and damage to power lines and your home. Because different trees have different mature heights, special attention must be paid to the planting location. It is also important to notice the trees' placement relative to your home, as their roots may disrupt underground utilities and home foundations as they get bigger. Tree location could affect the future reliability of the electric service to your home.

Tree-Related Outages



Southern Iowa Electric's tree-related power outages have dropped significantly since the aggressive Right-of-Way Management Program started.

Tree Planting Guide



Large Trees

| No Planting

25 Ft.

Short Trees
Under 30 Ft. ↓

Redbud, Red Leaf Cherry,
Flowering Crabapple,
Flowering Dogwood



Min. of 30 Ft.

Medium Trees
30– 60 Ft. ↓

Amur Maple, Persimmon,
River Birch, Austrian Pine,
Saucer Magnolia,
Red Mulberry



Min. of 35 Ft.

Large Trees
Over 60 Ft. ↓

Black Walnut, Pin Oak,
Red Maple, White Ash,
White Oak, Green Ash,
Red Oak, Sycamore,
White Maple

Min. of 45 Ft.

Zone | Plant Short Trees | Plant Medium Trees | Plant