

Planting Under or Around Powerlines & Electrical Equipment



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LEGAL DISCLAIMER

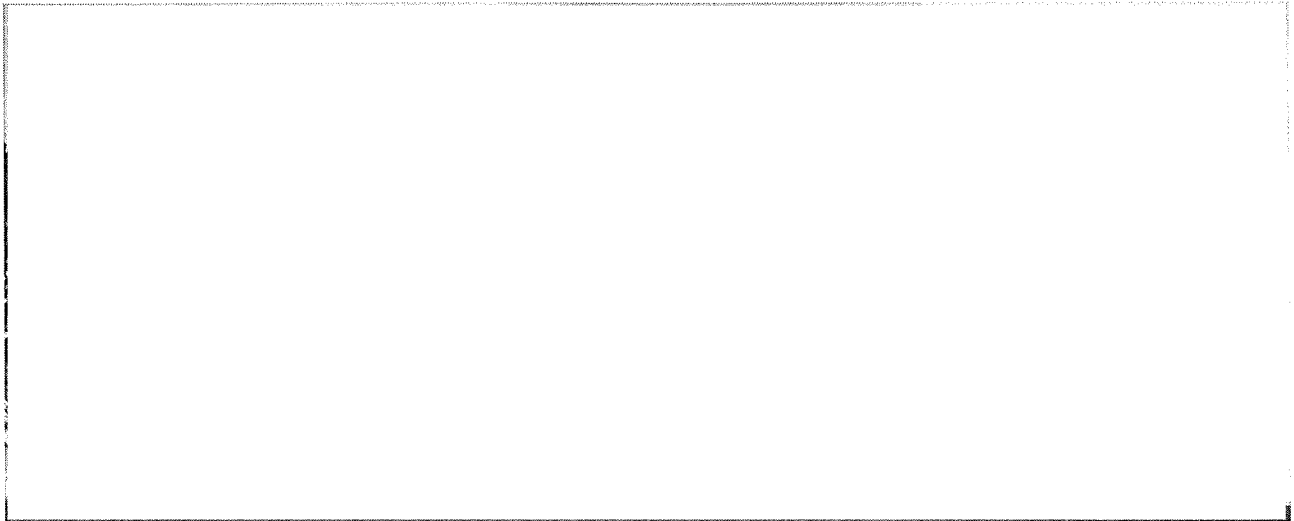
This document contains AWARENESS ONLY material to assist members of the Public and Industry Professionals to select the correct tree and location to avoid conflicts with the overhead and/or underground powerlines.

This document does not have the force of the law. Where there is a conflict between this document and any Municipal, Regional and/or Township by-laws, legislation or regulation which may apply, the relevant law prevails.

Contact the local Municipality, Regional and/or Township offices to determine if permits are required to plant trees.

Contact your *Local Distribution Company (LDC)* to determine their requirements to plant trees and/or shrubs under or around powerlines and electrical equipment.

- ☑ To ensure accuracy determining the height and width at maturity, it is important to consider the Plant Hardiness Index accompanied with the *Plant Hardiness Geographical Map* (Appendix A). This will confirm where you can plant the specie of tree in proximity to overhead powerlines.

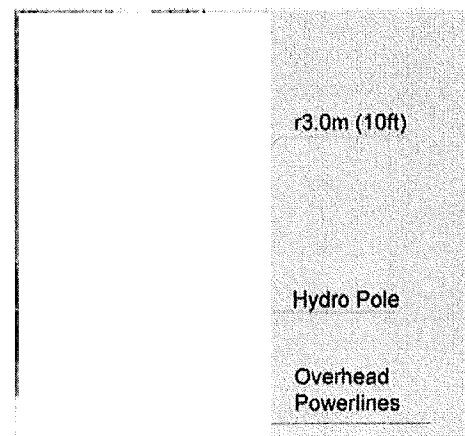


Low Zone – is the area under the power lines and extends to 4.5 m (15 ft) on either side. Trees and/or shrubs planted in this zone should have a maximum mature height and spread of 4.5 m (15 ft).

Medium Zone – extends from the edge of the outer edge of the Low Zone to a distance of 7.6 m (25 ft) on either side of the power line. The maximum mature height and spread of trees planted in this zone should be 7.6 m (25 ft).

Tall Zone – extends from the outer edge of the Medium Zone extending greater than 7.6 m (25 ft) from the power lines. Any strong and healthy tree may be planted in this zone.

Base Zone near the Hydro Pole – Trees and/or shrubs should not be placed closer than 3.0 m (10 ft) from the base of a hydro pole.



Quick Reference Guide: Landscape & Arborist Trades

'Look Up! Look Out!' to avoid potential electrical hazards

☑ Locate overhead powerlines and follow Ont. OH&S Act's Limits of Approach

☑ Locate all underground services prior to excavating

Contact Ontario One Call to obtain all underground locates

Utilities will only locate underground services which they own. It is the responsibility of the property owner or excavator/landscaper to locate non utility owned services.

☑ Check Municipal, Regional and Township By-Laws for specifications

☑ Check with the *LDC* for their planting requirements under or around powerlines and electrical equipment including underground powerlines

☑ Select landscape materials and designs that meet clearance requirements under or around powerlines and electrical equipment, specifically:

☑ **Underground Powerlines** – the minimum clearance required from the edge of the root ball to the edge of the underground powerline corridor is 1.0 m (3ft.)

☑ **Electrical Equipment** – when planting near *pad mounted equipment*:

- **Transformers** – 3.0 m (10 ft.) is required in front of the door(s) and 1.5M (4.9 ft.) on the sides and back

- **Switchgear** – 3.0 m (10 ft.) is required in the front and back doors and 1.5M (4.9 ft.) on the sides

➔ **Overhead Powerlines** – 'look up! look out!'

1. Consider required distances between powerlines and trees or shrubs when selecting species.

- **LOW ZONE** – is the area under the power lines and extends to 4.5 m (15 ft) on either side. Trees and/or shrubs planted in this zone should have a maximum mature height and spread of 4.5 m (15 ft).

- **MEDIUM ZONE** – extends from the outer edge of the low zone to a distance of 7.6 m (25 ft) on either side of the power line. The maximum mature height and spread of trees planted in this zone should be 7.6 m (25 ft).

- **TALL ZONE** – extends from the outer edge of the medium zone extending greater than 7.6 m (25 ft) from the power lines. Any strong and healthy tree may be planted in this zone.

- **BASE ZONE NEAR HYDRO POLES** – Trees and/or shrubs should not be placed closer than 3.0 m (10 ft) from the base of a hydro pole.

2. Delivery of plant materials – Unloading of the tree(s) is not to be done under or around the overhead powerlines. Delivery equipment such as a boom truck can come into contact with the overhead wires. The same for digging with equipment such as a high hoe, the equipment can also come into contact with the overhead wires.

