

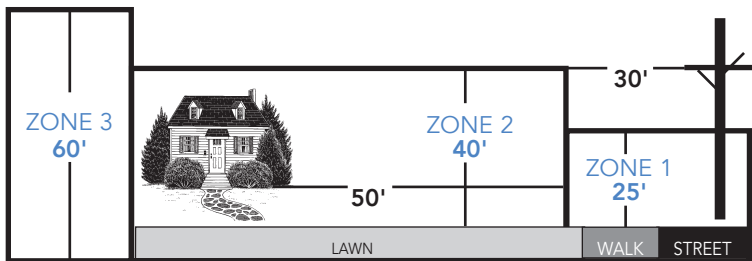
# LOOK BEFORE YOU PLANT

Before you plant, give your new tree its best chance for a long, healthy life. Choose wisely where you plant, with careful thought for the future. Every tree has an approximate maturity height. When choosing a site for planting, think of how high your tree will grow. Will it disturb power lines? The roof of your home? Your neighbor's yard? Is it too close to a street or driveway? A tree planted in the wrong place could mean trouble later.



More than 80 percent of outages are caused by tree limbs during storms. With careful planning, you can help us avoid some of these outages and keep your lights and appliances operating. When planting a tree near power lines, follow the distance guidelines illustrated below. You might consider alternative vegetation such as shrubbery or smaller, flowering trees.

For more information on what type of vegetation you should plant to avoid interference with power lines, ask your nurseryman or county extension agent.



**ZONE 3 –**  
Trees that grow 60 feet.

**ZONE 2 –** Trees that grow no taller than 40 feet.

**ZONE 1 –** Trees that grow no taller than 25 feet.



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Call before you dig.



## Posting items to utility poles creates safety risks

If you are planning a garage sale, open house or some other event, remember that posting signs to utility poles is not allowed and creates a safety risk.

Signs on utility poles often leave leftover nails, staples or tacks that are a danger to our line workers who need to climb these poles. The clamped safety boots used by line workers to climb poles are vulnerable to becoming snagged on staples and nails embedded in the poles. These objects also can tear utility workers' protective clothing, which is the first line of protection from an electric shock.

Thanks for helping us keep our employees safe!

# ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



**One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.**

Whether you are a professional excavator or a do-it-yourselfer, you need to call 811 before every dig ... every time.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



U.S. Department  
of Transportation



Building Your Quality of Life



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Common Ground Alliance

## Energy Efficient Landscaping



Spring has arrived and now is the time homeowners are planning landscaping projects. A well-designed landscape not only adds beauty to your home and yard, it can also help you save energy. Carefully placed trees can provide shade from the hot summer sun and save on your home's summer cooling costs. For best results, plant large deciduous trees (trees that shed their leaves annually) on the east and west sides of your home. Deciduous trees block solar heat in the summer months, but let sunlight in during the winter.

Shading is the most cost-effective way to reduce solar heat gain in your home and cut air conditioning costs. To effectively shade your home, you need to know the size, shape and location of the shadow that your shading device casts.

### Fact:

In tree-shaded neighborhoods, the summer daytime air temperature can be up to 6 degrees cooler than in treeless areas.

Information from Energy.gov