

Plan Before You Plant

Determining where to plant a tree is a decision that should not be taken lightly. Many factors should be considered prior to planting. When deciding what type of tree to plant, remember to look up and down to determine where the tree will grow in relation to overhead and underground utility lines. The proper planting distance is 15 feet on either side of a utility pole for trees that will grow up to 25 feet tall. Small trees can be planted near power lines. Examples include: dogwoods, redbuds, crepe myrtles and holly trees.

Planting Near Transformers

Obstructions such as fencing, shrubs, trees, vines, and any other materials or objects placed near transformers hinder the ability of RMPU to adequately and safely service, repair or inspect the transformer.

Fencing, shrubbery, etc. is allowed in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Plantings or fencing may be placed around three sides provided that a five-foot clearance is maintained. Trees planted within 15 feet of the transformer may eventually require removal if tree roots or foliage hinder service or maintenance of the transformer.
- The front of the transformer must be free of any obstructions so it is clearly visible.
- The top of the transformer must be completely unobstructed.
- Any shrubs or bushes planted must not be of a variety that bears thorns or sharp protrusions of any kind or any variety of running vine (i.e. ivy), which will grow over the transformer.

Contacting RMPU is strongly encouraged prior to planting. Obstructions found by inspection or repair crews will be removed without notice to the resident.

For additional information regarding tree trimming:

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Avoiding Tree & Utility Conflicts



RMPU (12/2015)



Avoiding Tree & Utility Conflicts

The primary goal of Rocky Mount Public Utilities (RMPU) is to provide our customers with safe, reliable and affordable power. Often, we take our utility services for granted because they have become a part of our daily lives. For us to enjoy the convenience of reliable, uninterrupted service, distribution systems are required to bring utilities into our homes. These services arrive at our homes through overhead and underground lines. Overhead lines can be electric, telephone or cable television. Underground lines can include natural gas, water and sewer in addition to electric, telephone and cable television lines. The location of these lines should have a direct impact on your tree and planting site selection.

The ultimate mature height of a tree to be planted must be within the available overhead growing space. Just as important, the soil area must be large enough to accommodate the particular rooting habits and ultimate trunk diameter of the tree. Proper tree and site selection will provide trouble-free beauty for years to come.

Fallen trees and branches are a major cause of widespread power outages after a hurricane or an ice storm. Flickering and dimming lights can be caused by tree limbs laying or rubbing against electric lines. An aggressive tree-trimming and right-of-way maintenance program for power lines is crucial to the RMPU's mission of delivering

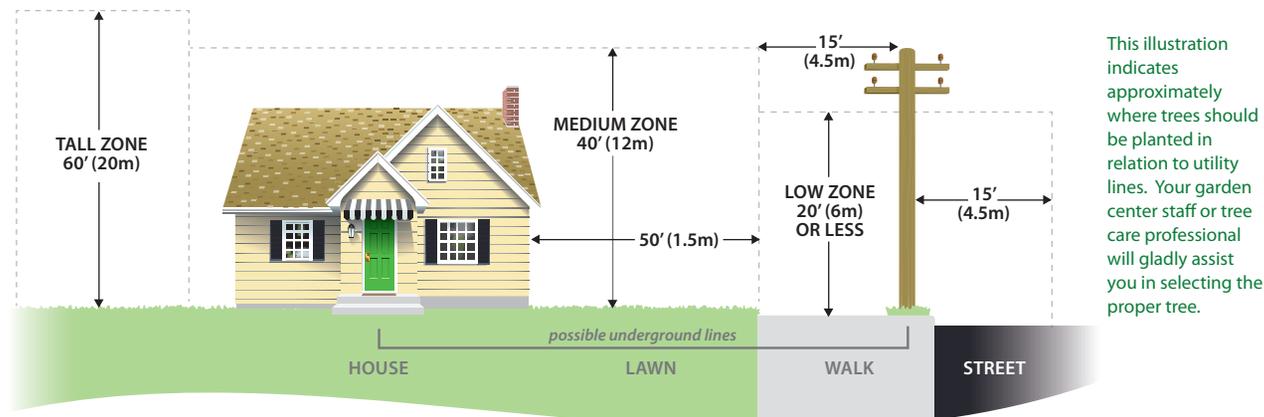
reliable electric power to the consumer and maintaining the integrity of the power system.

How Are Trees Pruned?

Trees are pruned based on a technique called "directional pruning." This technique was developed by the National Arborist Association, approved by the American National Standards Institute and adopted by the pruning industry as the standard. The City of Rocky Mount also uses Dr. Alex Shingo's guide, *Pruning Trees Near Electric Utility Lines* as a reference.

With directional pruning, entire limbs or portions of limbs growing toward the lines are removed at the main branch or trunk. They are removed at a point where they would naturally shed if they had cause. By doing this, future growth will be directed away from the wires and rapidly growing attached sprouts will be minimized.

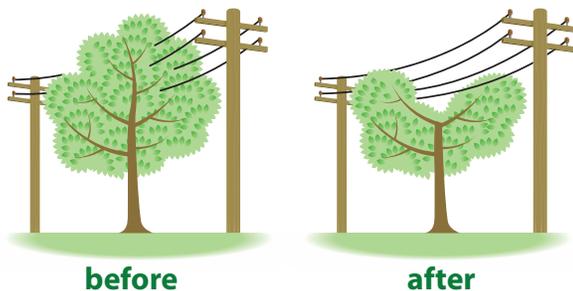
RMPU follows a pattern of trimming known as circuit trimming. This means the trees are trimmed along an electric circuit. Trimming is also done when there is a limb laying or rubbing against an electric line and causing problems. RMPU works on a five-year tree-trimming schedule.



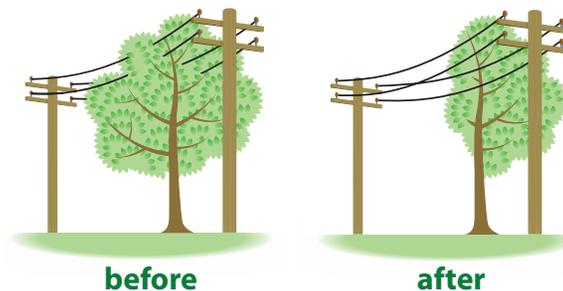
How Will The Trees Look When Pruned?

Trees will be trimmed according to where electric lines are located. Some examples are below.

"V" PRUNING



SIDE PRUNING



"L" PRUNING

