LANDSCAPING

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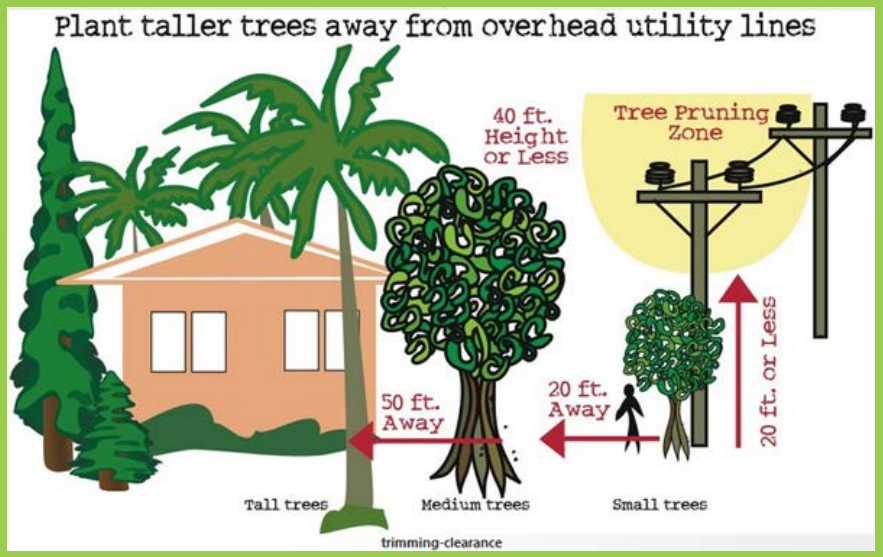
Use this diagram to determine the best location and height for planting trees near distribution (lower voltages) power lines.



"Mature height" means the maximum height of the species when it reaches maturity. Distances from utility poles or lines are measured to the edge of the tree canopy, not the trunk.

- Under 20 Feet Tall – ideal for planting near overhead distribution lines.
- 20-40 Feet Tall – should be planted so the edge of the tree canopy is a minimum of 20 feet away from overhead distribution lines.
- Over 40 Feet Tall – should be planted so that the edge of the tree canopy is a minimum of 50 feet away from overhead distribution lines.

Tree WISE
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SELECTING THE BEST LOCATION

Since outside air entering the home increases the load on the cooling unit, a row of trees to block winds can be useful if your home is totally air-conditioned.

For breeze-cooled homes, choose locations that do not interfere with air movement. Prevailing winds during the summer months originate in the south, southeast and east, with south winds predominating.

Windows are the best targets for shading since glass transmits sunshine directly. During the summer, east and west walls receive twice as much sunshine as walls facing north and south. A tree planted between the incoming sunshine and your window will block the sun's rays and help reduce your cooling needs. The payoff is usually greatest from shading eastern and western windows.

Trees intended to shade sidewalls should be planted between 7 and 20 feet from the edge of the house for the benefits of shade to be realized within five years. The shadow of a tree planted ten feet from the house will move across the surface four times slower than it would if it were 20 feet away.

LANDSCAPING TO CONSERVE ELECTRICITY

In most Southwest Florida homes, approximately 47 percent of the energy expended is used for cooling, and 14 percent is for heating.

That's why LCEC recommends low-energy landscaping in addition to other energy-efficient measures such as insulation, caulking, weather-stripping and reflective window film. Properly placed plants can help reduce your heating and cooling costs by 20 to 30 percent.

A low-energy landscaping plan will use trees to moderate the effects of the typical hot and humid weather from April through November.

Trees planted in your yard can help reduce the discomfort of summer in two ways:

- Provide a canopy of shade. The tree's leaves absorb or reflect sunshine that would otherwise hit the home.
- Cool the air around the home through evapotranspiration, a process where leaves absorb heat, cooling the surrounding air by as much as 9 degrees Fahrenheit.

Source: This information is taken from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences publication EES.2, "Landscaping to Save Energy at Home: Trees for Southern Florida." Your County Cooperative Extension Service Office is an excellent source of information and advice on landscaping to conserve energy. Also ask them about xeriscaping to conserve water!

Medium-sized trees with round or oval shapes are good for shading sidewalls. If lower branches are not pruned, they can block breezes, insulating homes that are cooled only by air conditioning. To encourage air movement, remove lower branches or select trees with more open branches.

SELECTING THE MOST APPROPRIATE SPECIES

The trees you select depend on a number of characteristics: growth rate, leaf persistence, shape and salt tolerance (if you live near saltwater). If immediate shade is indeed a priority, a good landscaping plan will include species with different growth rates. Some fast-growing species are not as strong as low-growing trees. We recommend that you contact your local nursery for advice on which trees to select.

The following chart lists tree species that are best for low-energy landscaping in Southwest Florida.

Power-Friendly Trees

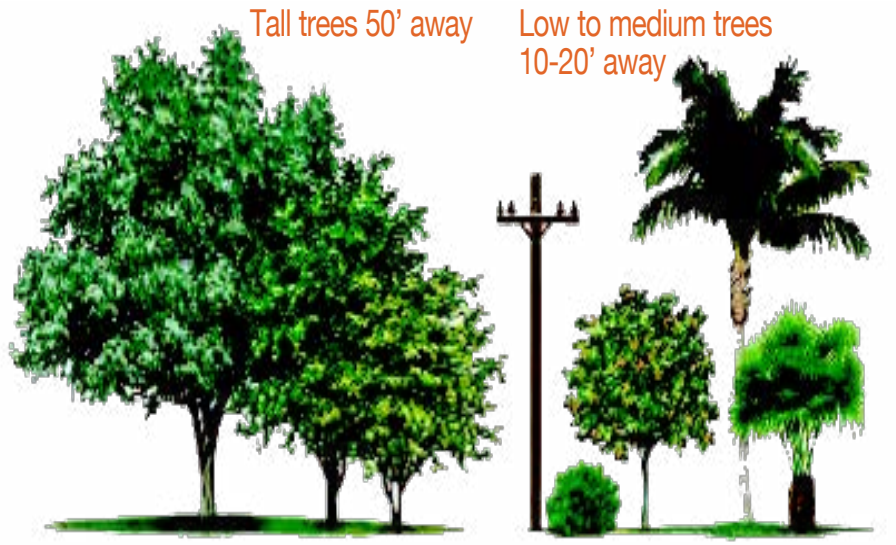
COMMON NAME	MAXIMUM HEIGHT
SHRUBS	
GOPHER APPLE	1 FOOT
COONTIE	2 - 3 FEET
ROUGE PLANT	3 - 5 FEET
PINELAND SNOWBERRY	3 - 4 FEET
BLUE PORTERWEED	4 - 5 FEET
BEAUTY BERRY	5 - 6 FEET
NECKLACE POD	5 - 10 FEET
BAHAMA CASSIA	6 - 8 FEET
BLOODBERRY	6 - 8 FEET
PRIVET CASSIA	6 - 8 FEET
SCRUB OAK	6 FEET
BLACK TORCH	7 - 8 FEET
SNOWBERRY	10 FEET
VARNISHLEAF	10 FEET
WHITE INDIGO BERRY	10 FEET
FIREBUSH	10 FEET
ARROW-WOOD	10 FEET
SWAMP CANDLEBERRY	10 FEET
FLORIDA PRIVET	10 - 15 FEET
PISONIA	10 - 15 FEET
SUGAR APPLE	13 FEET
PEARL BERRY	13 FEET
SALTBUSH	13 FEET
SARVIS HOLLY	16 FEET
COCO PLUM	16 FEET
ROUGH LEAF CORNEL	16 FEET
DEER BERRY	16 FEET
SWEET ACACIA	16 FEET
TORCHWOOD	16 FEET
KEY LIME	16 FEET
BLACK CALABASH	20 FEET
JAMAICA CAPER	20 FEET
ELDER BERRY	20 FEET
PAPAYA	20 FEET
FLORIDA CROSSOPETALUM	20 FEET
FLORIDA MAYTEN	20 FEET
RAM'S HORN	20 FEET
ASHE MAGNOLIA	20 FEET

COMMON NAME	MAXIMUM HEIGHT
SMALL TREE	
BITTERBUSH	10 - 15 FEET
LANCEWOOD	10 - 15 FEET
JOEWOOD	15 FEET
SWEET ACACIA	15 FEET
SEA GRAPE	20 FEET
SEVEN YEAR APPLE	20 FEET
VELVETSEED	20 FEET
WINGLEAF SOAPBERRY	20 FEET
WILLOW BUSTIC	25 - 30 FEET
YAUPON HOLLY	20 - 25 FEET
PALM TREES	
SCRUB PALMETTO	4 - 6 FEET
DWARF PALMETTO	4 - 6 FEET
SAW PALMETTO	6 - 12 FEET
BUCCANEER PALM	10 - 15 FEET
PYGMY DATE PALM	10 FEET
SILVER PALM	20 FEET

When selecting between evergreen and deciduous (leaf shedding) species, consider that broad-leaved evergreens provide shade throughout the year. However, you may wish to plant deciduous trees on the south side of your home so that the winter sun can shine through the bare canopy and warm the house during the morning; when the extra heat may be welcome.

LANDSCAPING NEAR ELECTRIC FACILITIES

Tree branches that brush against electric lines are dangerous and can cause power outages. Plant trees that will have a mature height of 20 feet or more at least 20 feet away from overhead electric lines. Shrubbery that blocks ground transformers and electric meters interferes with servicing equipment and reading meters. Please leave an 8-foot space in front of the door side of the transformer so utility employees can work quickly and safely. We also ask that you maintain a 3-foot cleared area around the electric meter and a 3-foot-wide approach to the meter.



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