

Planting The Right Tree In The Right Place

With nicer weather approaching, many people are starting to plant trees. There are many environmental and beautification benefits to planting young trees. However, Safe Electricity wants to remind everyone to be aware of electrical hazards while planting this year. Always seek help from professionals when choosing and placing trees and bushes.

Trees that grow too close to electric lines can create shock and fire hazards as well as power outages. More importantly, children can become victims of electric shock when they climb trees that have grown too close to the power lines as well. Trees growing into power lines can also create electrical hazards for people who might be trimming branches, hanging lights or otherwise working around them.

"Trees provide many aesthetic, environmental and economic benefits" said Safe Electricity Executive Director Erin Hollinshead. "But everyone needs to be aware of the dangers and risks created when trees grow into power lines, and the importance of calling the utility or utility locator service before beginning any landscaping project."

Take the time to research tree selections by consulting your local arborist, tree nursery or utility. These experts can provide assistance in designing a beautiful, shade-filled yard with trees appropriate for each area of the landscape. With their help, trees can provide economical cooling in the summer, and a wind-break for harsh winter winds.

In addition, trees help combat the effects of pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO₂). When trees grow, they take energy from the sun and combine it with CO₂ from the air to photosynthesize. This makes trees a natural "carbon sink" or, a living source of carbon reduction. Some trees are better suited for this task than others and, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), tree species that grow quickly and live long are ideal carbon sinks.

Choosing the right tree for the right place is crucial, especially when it comes to power lines. Trees and wood in general can potentially conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if grown close to electric lines. Power outages or momentary interruptions can occur when branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch can also cause fires.

"Keep in mind expected height when you purchase trees to plant this year," Hollinshead said. "Just because a tree is far from the power line right now, doesn't mean it always will be."

If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact your electric utility. Never try to prune them yourself. Utilities have or can recommend skilled professionals trained to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearance.

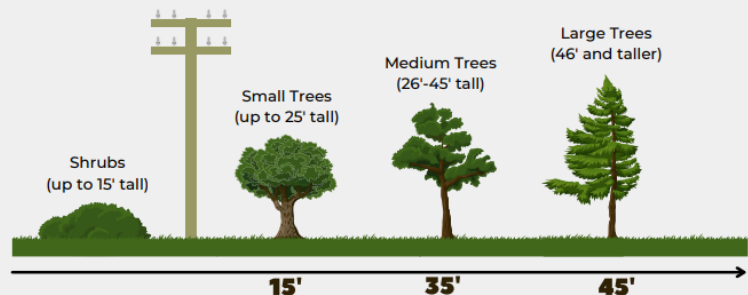
To avoid future electrical hazards, safe planting tips to remember include:

- Consider mature height of trees. Never plant a tree near a power line that could grow within 25 feet of it. Tall growing trees should be planted a minimum of 20 feet away from power lines, and 50 feet away to avoid future pruning. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended for trees planted near power lines.
- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees, or even require removal.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.
- Before digging, call the local underground utility locator service to mark the location of underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided.

"There are many beautiful varieties of low-growing trees and shrubs that provide color, screening and shade, and enhance the quality of life in our communities and environment," said Hollinshead. "Consider the types of trees that co-exist well with power lines and the environment to avoid the need for trimming for line clearance."

Plant the RIGHT TREE in the RIGHT PLACE

The larger the tree, the farther it should be from a power line. Avoid planting beneath power lines, near poles or close to electrical equipment.



Remember, know what's below by calling 8-1-1 before you dig.

Learn more at: 

Plan ahead to call before you dig

Digging without locating underground utilities could leave neighborhoods in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or cause severe electrical shock. This is true regardless of how much area your project will cover or whether you consider the job to be large or small. To help stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 8-1-1.

The 8-1-1 "Call Before You Dig" number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

Red – Electric

Orange – Communications, Telephone/CATV

Blue – Potable Water

Green – Sewer/Drainage

Yellow – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line

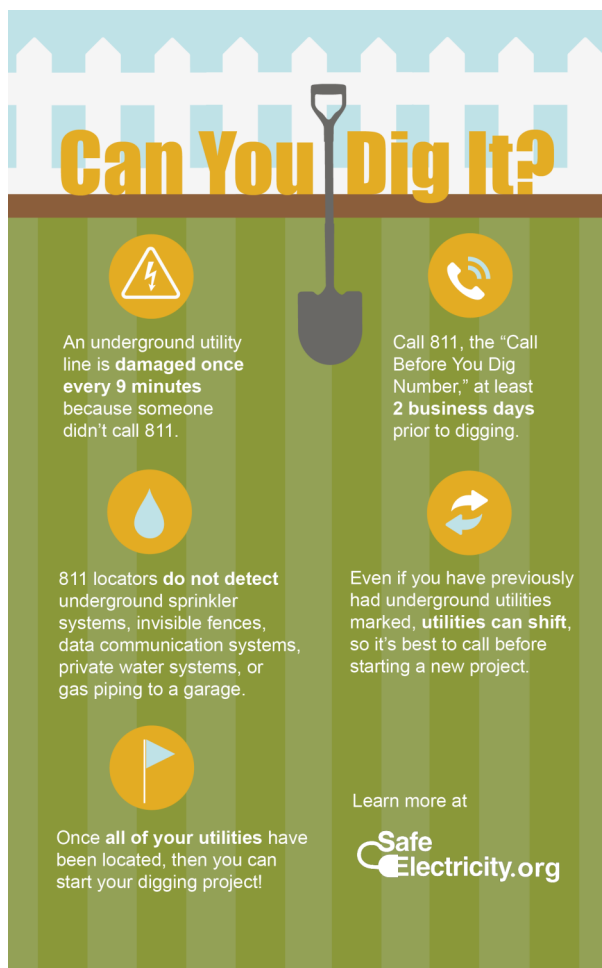
Purple – Reclaimed Water

White – Premark site of intended excavation

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 8-1-1, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

It is important to understand that 8-1-1 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. If you have any private utilities, you will need to hire a private utility locator. Examples of private utilities include underground sprinkler system, invisible fences, data communication systems, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage.

Once all of your underground utilities have been located, it is time to start digging, but be sure to wear all of the proper protective gear before putting the shovel into the earth.



For more information about 8-1-1 and digging safety, visit Call811.com and SafeElectricity.org.



Our office will be closed on
July 4th!

Line crews will be available 24/7 for
outages.

Please call 888-251-5100 to report
any outages.

Peach-and-Blackberry Crisp Recipe

Ingredients

2 pounds ripe peaches, halved, pitted, and cut into 1/2 wedges
3 cups fresh blackberries
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
1 cup uncooked quick-cooking oats
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/3 cup honey
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 cup teaspoon ground cardamom
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/2 cup plus 1 Tbsp. cold unsalted butter, cubed
Lemon zest (optional)



Directions

Step 1:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Gently toss together peaches, blackberries, granulated sugar, cornstarch, and lemon juice in a large bowl. Transfer fruit to a lightly greased 11x7-inch baking dish.

Step 2:

Toss together oats, flour, honey, kosher salt, cinnamon, cardamom, and nutmeg in a medium bowl; add cubed butter. Using your hands, combine until mixture is crumbly. Sprinkle topping evenly over fruit.

Step 3:

Bake in reheated oven until top is golden brown and fruit mixture is bubbling, 45-50-minutes. Remove from oven, and cool 15 minutes. If desired, sprinkle with lemon zest before serving.

Served hot or at room temperature, nothing says summer like a fresh cobbler. When the dish first comes out of the oven, the fruit juice will be a little thin, but it will thicken as the cobbler sets and cools down. Peaches and blackberries come together in this easy to assemble recipe, but feel free to substitute your favorite berries or stone fruits. You can make the crumble topping mix ahead of time and store it in the refrigerator.

Have a favorite recipe you want to share?

Email us at sgroebner@redwoodelectric.com

Looking for
New Recipes



WHAT'S THE ORANGE SIGN FOR?



It's not a suggestion. It's the law.

Speeding through a work zone is not worth losing your life or taking someone else's.

National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 17-21, 2023, is a good time to learn more about work zone safety. However, work zones should be observed every day of the year to save lives.

2020 Work Zone Statistics*

Crashes and Injuries



Estimated total crashes
102,000



Estimated injuries
44,000

Fatalities



857
Total fatalities



244 Fatalities involving
commercial motor vehicles

Pedestrian Fatalities in Work Zones



105 Pedestrians
(non-workers)



51 Pedestrian workers

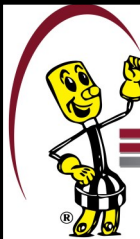
Do your part to help everyone return home safely. The orange sign is not meant for everyone else; it is meant for everyone.



*most recent data available

Sources: National Work Zone Awareness Week (nwzaw.org), National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, American Traffic Safety Services Association

**Safe
Electricity.org®**



REC

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