



# KNOW *before you* GROW



## SAFETY

Every year in Texas, people are injured or even killed when they climb or prune trees near power lines. Tree limbs in contact with power lines can act as conductors, and a person can be seriously injured if contact is made.

Trees that fall into utility lines can injure people or damage property near the line, and may also cause power outages, surges, fires, and other damage.

### Tree Hazard Checklist:

- Are there detached branches in the tree?
- Are there cracks or splits in the trunk or where branches are attached?
- Have the roots been broken off or damaged by lowering the soil level, installing pavement, repairing sidewalks, or digging trenches?
- Has the site recently been changed by construction, raising the soil level, or installing a lawn?
- Has the tree been topped or heavily pruned?

## WHAT TO GROW

Low growing trees with a mature height of less than 25 feet can be planted adjacent to overhead power lines. There are many to choose from and a few that we recommend are:

- Flowering Dogwood
- Mexican Plum
- Dwarf Crapemyrtle
- Crabapple
- Washington Hawthorn
- Desert Willow

## HOW TO GROW

Before planting trees, you should consider

- Mature height and width of tree
- Amount of shade provided
- Shape of tree: spread or columnar
- Seed production
- Growth rate and longevity

After selecting the right tree for the right place, the next step is to plant the tree properly. Dig the hole two to three times as wide and only as deep as the root ball. Root flairs should always be slightly exposed on final planting.

With proper tree selection and care, you can enhance your home and improve the environment in your neighborhood and city.

## RELIABILITY

By periodically pruning trees near power lines, Oncor Electric Delivery helps to improve customer safety and prevent future power outages. Service interruptions caused by trees are an inconvenience, can endanger lives through failure of life support systems, fire alarms and traffic signals. For more information on Oncor's tree pruning program, visit [www.oncor.com/trees](http://www.oncor.com/trees) or call 1-888-313-4747.

Together, we can successfully address the relationship between trees and power lines, and help Texans balance our environment with electric service in a safe and reliable manner.

## QUICK FACTS:

- The three primary causes of power outages are trees, wildlife and lightening.
- Oncor trims about 5,000 miles of distribution line annually, which is equivalent to approximately three round trips from Dallas to Denver, or stacking 18,207 Sears Towers on top of one another.
- The average tree in a metropolitan area survives only about eight years.
- Trees provide shade and shelter, reducing yearly heating and cooling costs by \$2.1 billion.
- Trees located along streets act as a glare and reflection control.
- Trees are the longest living organisms on earth.
- Trees reduce noise pollution by acting as sound barriers.