

# Plant the Right Tree Near Utility Lines

Recommended species, and guidelines to follow when planting trees and shrubs near Chugach Electric Association, Inc. powerlines.

Alaska Department of Natural Resources / Division of Forestry / Community Forestry Program  
550 W. 7th Ave., Ste. 1450 / Anchorage, AK 99501-3566 / 269-8465/8466 / [www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry)



## 1. Within eight feet of lines

Do not plant trees or shrubs under, or within eight feet of, overhead or underground powerlines.

This space is needed for equipment access. Plant grasses, annuals, and herbaceous perennials in this area.

## 2. Eight feet to 20 feet from lines

Plant trees and shrubs that reach no more than 20 feet in height at maturity from eight to 20 feet from lines. Appropriate plants for this area include:

### Evergreen

creeping juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*) 1' - 2'  
bird's nest spruce (*Picea abies* 'Nidiformis') 3'  
dwarf mugo pine (*Pinus mugo* var. *mugo*) 8'

### Deciduous (shed leaves in fall)

Siberian pea shrub (*Caragana arborescens*) 6' - 18'  
red twig dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) 3' - 12'  
serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) 3' - 12'  
honeysuckles (*Lonicera*) 12'  
lilacs (*Syringa*) 8' - 20'  
Nanking cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*) 6'  
potentilla (*Potentilla fruticosa*) 3' - 4'  
Peking cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster acutifolia*) 5' - 8'  
alpine currant (*Ribes alpinum*) 3' - 6'  
red currant (*Ribes triste*) 2' - 5'  
roses (*Rosa*) 3' - 7'  
spireas (*Spiraea*) 3' - 9'  
early forsythia (*Forsythia ovata*) 5' - 8'  
high bush cranberry (*Viburnum edule*) 2' - 12'

## 3. More than 20 feet from lines

Any size tree or shrub may be planted beyond 20 feet from powerlines. However, it is best to plant larger species further from the lines. Consider width of the crown as well as height. Trees with large, rounded crowns need more horizontal space than those with narrow, columnar crowns. Appropriate plants for this area include:

### Evergreen

bristlecone pine (*Pinus aristata*) 20' - 25'  
black hills spruce (*Picea glauca* 'Densata') 30' - 40'  
white spruce (*Picea glauca*) 115'  
Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*) 80' - 150'  
lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*) 75'  
Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) 60'

### Deciduous

Amur maple (*Acer tatarian* or *ginnala*) 15' - 20'  
chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) 20' - 30'  
Amur chokecherry (*Prunus maackii*) 35' - 45'  
Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata*) 20' - 30'  
flowering crabapples (*Malus* spp.) 10' - 50'  
showy mountain ash (*Sorbus decora*) 10' - 30'  
European mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*) 40'  
paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) 20' - 80'  
weeping birch (*Betula pendula*) 40' - 50'  
larch (*Larix*) 50' - 75'  
quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) 40' - 80'