

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CUT WOOD?

Logs are the property of the landowner. Branches and small debris are left to decompose where they are cut. In maintained yard areas, branches and small debris are chipped and removed unless otherwise requested by the member.



WHAT HAPPENS IF I PLANT IN THE ROW?

In the best interest of all members, new plantings are not allowed in the right-of-way. Upon notification, plants need to be transplanted or removed.

Oconto Electric will continue its commitment to the rights-of-way with regular maintenance.
We appreciate your cooperation.

IS THE INVESTMENT SUCCESSFUL?

During the last 10 years of the ROW program, OEC invested about \$1.9 million for clearing its rights-of-way. This was a wise investment in safety and service for members, as the alternatives are emergency clearings, major power outages and dangerous conditions.



CAN POWER LINES BE BURIED?

In certain situations, upon landowner request, overhead power lines may be reconstructed underground. Contact the co-op about necessary costs, easements and other requirements.



With clear rights-of-way, Oconto Electric crews are able to respond to storm damage with minimal disruption of electricity. They have safe access to the power lines, they don't have to cut their way in to reach repair areas and they will be able to restore power more quickly for members.



Be sure to notify OEC if you know where there are trees/brush/limbs making contact with the electric wires.

For more information contact:
Oconto Electric Cooperative
7479 REA Rd
PO Box 168
Oconto Falls, WI 54154-0168
800-472-8410
www.ocontoelectric.com

OCONTO ELECTRIC
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COOPERATIVE

Right-Of-Way and Planting Guide



WHAT IS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY PROGRAM?

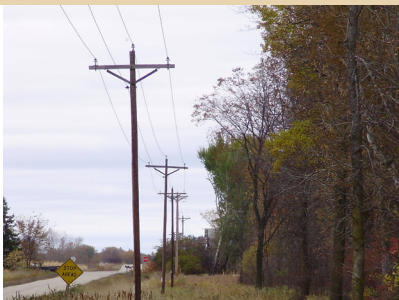


When trees interfere with power lines, members experience outages; trees are the major cause of power outages.

Every year OEC budgets money for right-of-way clearing. In 1989 the co-op's entire system was divided into sections and each year the right-of-way of one section is cleared. This allows OEC to clear the right-of-way of the entire system every 8-10 years.

WHY IS A CLEAR ROW IMPORTANT?

A clear right-of-way improves power quality, reliability and safety.



We all enjoy trees, but when they interfere with power lines, reliability and safety are compromised. That's why it's important to remove trees, branches and brush from the ROW.

When trees and vegetation grow into the rights-of-way, they can:

- Cause power outages
- Cause lights to blink
- Obstruct visual inspections, making repairs difficult and costly
- Block access for maintenance and repairs, causing delays
- Waste electricity by drawing it into the ground
- Become a fire hazard
- Become a safety hazard for utility workers and members

Climbing a tree near a power line, could cause contact making it very hazardous for the climber. Call OEC if you have any questions.

HOW IS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARED?

The right-of-way is cleared by cutting, trimming, mowing, and where permissible, herbicides.

OEC treats all members equally when removing vegetation.



In most cases, all shrubs, brush and trees are removed under primary (main), high-voltage overhead power lines. They are also removed, as necessary, underneath and around secondary, low-voltage power lines that bring power from the transformer to your meter.

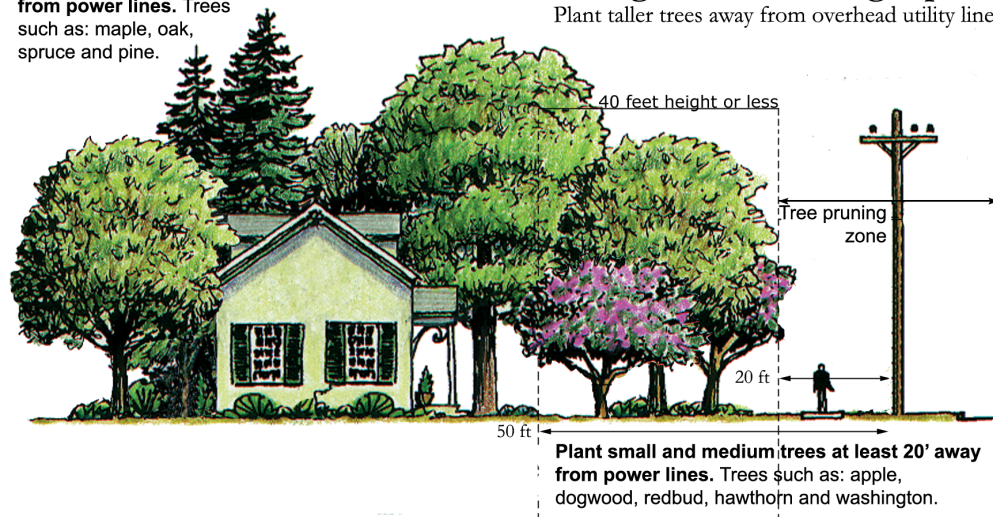
Cutting and trimming is done by trained, professional utility tree trimmers using specific and proven standards typical to the industry.

The electric system is regularly inspected for dead, dying and leaning danger trees. When found, they are marked and then trimmed or removed to eliminate threat to power lines.

YARD PLANTING GUIDE

All vegetation must be planted away from power lines, so that mature branches cannot grow into the right-of-way. Vegetation that is planted or grows into the right-of-way needs to be cut or trimmed. Vegetation within 20 feet on either side of the power line is at risk for future removal due to power line maintenance, upgrades, replacement, etc. For safe, reliable electric service, follow these guidelines.

Plant tall trees at least 50' from power lines. Trees such as: maple, oak, spruce and pine.



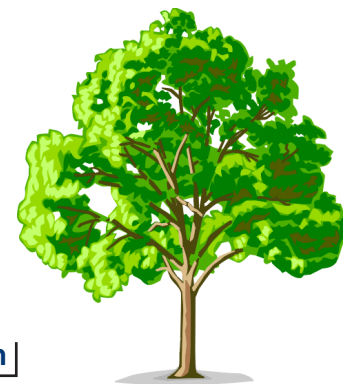
Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines

Plant small and medium trees at least 20' away from power lines. Trees such as: apple, dogwood, redbud, hawthorn and washington.

UNDERGROUND PLANTING GUIDE

Before you landscape close to an underground transformer, remember, crews need a 12 foot clearance on all sides for repairs and maintenance.



**All Vegetation
12 Feet Minimum**

 underground cable

BEFORE YOU DIG CALL

DIGGERS HOTLINE

Dial 811

www.DiggersHotline.com

The right-of-way (ROW) program requires removing vegetation, typically, from a 20-foot corridor on both sides of power lines to ensure safe conditions and reliable power.