

# Plan before planting trees



## Your guide to choosing and planting trees under or near power lines.

Trees and power lines aren't always good friends, but they can get along when you choose the right species and plant them the right distance from lines and cables. Here's a guide to choosing the right trees and shrubs for the right place so you can continue to enjoy them as they grow while keeping you and your family safe.

Trees growing near or through power lines and cables are a major hazard and can cause power cuts. If you touch a tree which is touching a power line you could get an electric shock, or even be killed. Branches can break and fall on lines, especially during high winds and storms, putting people and property at risk, as well as interrupting power supply to you and your neighbours.

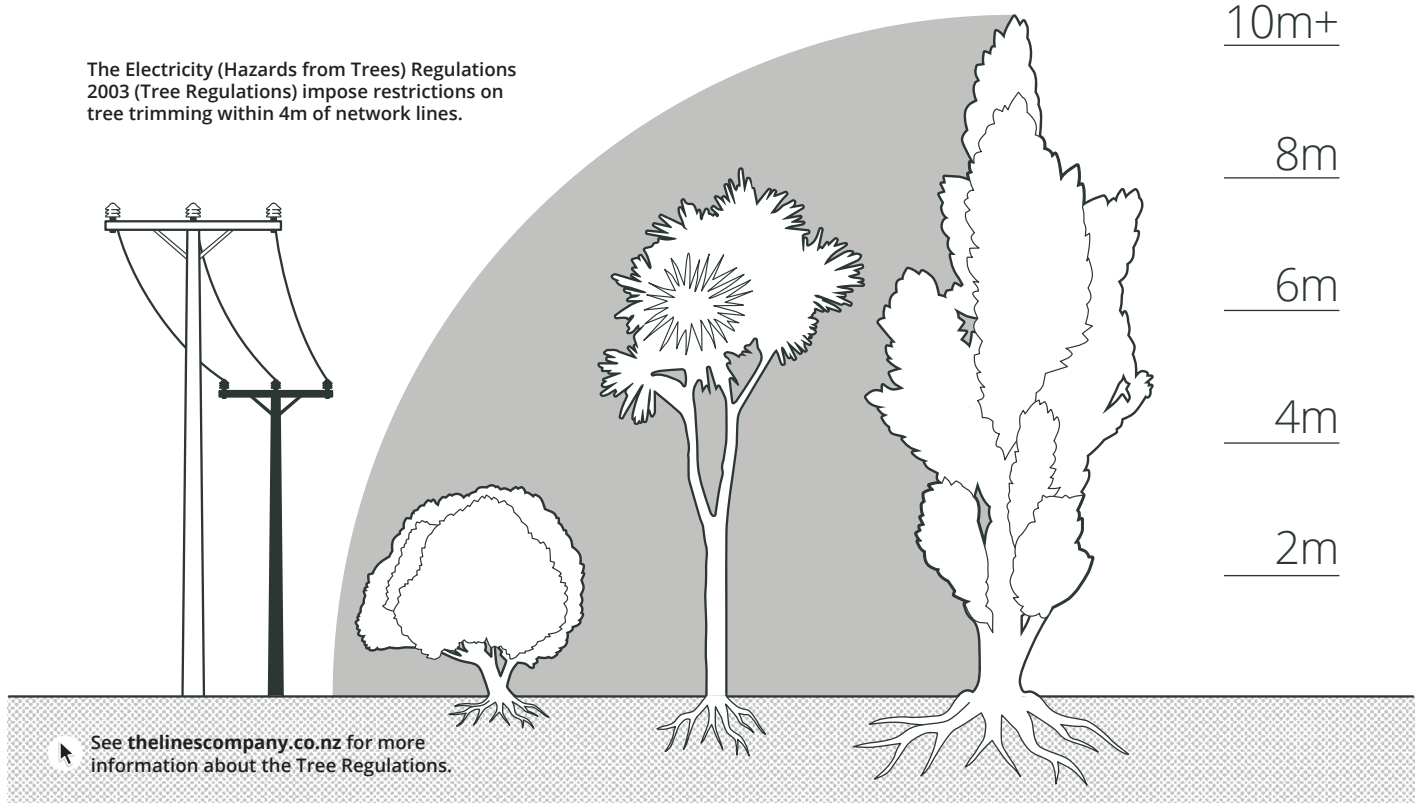
Under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 trees must be kept clear of network power lines. Tree owners are responsible for the costs of keeping their trees trimmed, clear and outside the growth limit zones around network power lines.

As a tree owner you could face penalties for failing to keep trees clear of lines. You could also be responsible for the costs of damage a tree causes to power lines or equipment.

That's why we recommend you avoid planting trees under or near power lines or underground cables. If you do decide to plant a tree anywhere near power lines or cables, please choose your tree carefully.

We've listed some small growing trees and shrubs under 4 metres tall that may be suitable. For further advice on low-growing plants for local conditions, contact the Horizons Regional Council or Waikato Regional Council, your local amenities organisation or plant nursery.

The Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 (Tree Regulations) impose restrictions on tree trimming within 4m of network lines.



See [thelinescompany.co.nz](http://thelinescompany.co.nz) for more information about the Tree Regulations.

# Planting tips

Our species list is a guide only. It's made up of hardy, adaptable, easy to grow species that are least likely to grow high and wide enough to cause problems. They're also good for wildlife habitat.

Local conditions vary, and it's still possible that your trees and plants may need to be trimmed and managed to remain a safe distance from power lines. Remember, even when trees appear to be well clear of power lines, they can still pose a threat to power supply in severe weather.

## Check before you dig

Underground power cables can be deadly. Before digging on your property, you should check the location of any buried cables before you start. Be extra careful when doing major gardening, driving stakes or posts into the ground, building a fence, or other types of digging and construction.

## Exotic Trees

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Height (m)
Acer palmatum	Japanese maple	varieties to 2.5
Camellia spp	Camellia	varieties to 2.5
Ceanothus spp	Californian lilac	3.5
Corylus avellana 'Contorta'	Hazelnut	3.0
Daphne spp	Daphne	2.0
Escallonia sp	Apple blossom	2.5
Gardenia augusta	Common gardenia	1.5
Ginkgo 'Jade Butterflies'	Butterfly ginkgo	3.0
Grevillea aquifolium	Holly grevillea	3.5
Grevillea australis	Alpine grevillea	1.8
Grevillea caleyii	Fern leaf grevillea	3.0
Grevillea hookeriana	Black toothbrushes	2.4
Hydrangea macrophylla	Lacecap varieties	2.5
Lavandula spp	Lavender	1.5
Magnolia stellata	Star magnolia	3.5
Malus golden hornet	Yellow crab-apple	3.0
Malus gorgeous	Fruiting crab-apple	3.0
Pieris spp	Lily of the Valley shrub	2.0
Pyrus salicifolia 'Pendula'	Weeping silver pear	3.0
Salix caprea 'Pendula'	Weeping pussy willow	2.5
Telopea speciosissima	Waratah	3.0
Viburnum acerifolia	Possum-haw	3.0
Viburnum dilatatum	Linden viburnum	3.0

## Before planting a tree

- Look up and look out for power lines.
- Use the height rules and species information to decide which trees are best for your situation.
- Check your tree will be at least 4 metres away from overhead lines when fully grown. If not, choose another variety or a different planting location.
- Tree roots need to be 0.5 metre away from underground cables.

## Known problem species

Trees that are fast growing, big or shed branches cause the most headaches near power lines and often need two trims per year. Always avoid planting large tree species like cabbage trees, beech, gums, macrocarpa, pines and poplars near power lines.

## Native Trees

Botanical Name	Common Name	Mature Height (m)
Astelia solandri	Kowharawhara	2.0
Clianthus puniceus	Kaka beak	2.0
Coprosma	Karamu	1.5
Cortaderia spp fulvida	Toe toe	2.5
Hebe spp	Hebe	2.5
Leptospermum scoparium	Mānuka	1.5
Leucopogon fasciculatus	Mingimingi	2.0
Lophomyrtus spp	New Zealand myrtle	2.5
Olearia arborescens	Common tree daisy	3.5
Olearia cheesemanii	Streamside tree daisy	2.5
Phormium cookianum	Mountain flax, wharariki	2.0
Pimelea longifolia	Taranga	1.5
Pimelea prostrata	New Zealand daphne	0.5
Plagianthus divaricatus	Marsh ribbonwood	2.0
Pseudowintera colorata	Horopito, pepper tree	3.0
Sophora prostrata	Dwarf kowhai	2.0

Please get in touch if you have any questions about the electricity regulations and your responsibilities as a tree owner.

**Trees: Let's grow together.**

We are here to help. Call us on 0800 367 564 or visit our website [thelinescompany.co.nz](http://thelinescompany.co.nz)