

## Indiana Small Tree/Shrub Selection Guide (Under 25 ft)

Plants like these can generally be planted under or near power lines. Other low-growing species are compatible with power lines and equipment. Please consult your local arborist or nursery for information or visit <http://tinyurl.com/IndianaForestryGuide>.

Common Name	Years to Maturity	Mature Height (ft)	Light Needs	Value
Spicebush	10	5-10'	Full sun/Partial shade	Wildlife food & cover
Silky Dogwood	3	5-10'	Partial Shade	Wildlife food & cover
Buttonbush	3	5-15'	Full sun/Partial shade	Wildlife food & cover
Ninebark	10	6-9'	Partial shade-full-sun	Wildlife food & cover
Gray Dogwood	15	5-10'	Full sun/Partial shade	Wildlife habitat & food & cover
Elderberry	5	5-10'	Full sun/Partial shade	Wildlife habitat & food & cover
Amur Maple	9	15-20'	Part shade/Part sun	Wildlife habitat and ornate flowering
Downy Serviceberry	15	15-20'	Partial shade/Full sun	Wildlife food & cover

## Safety First!

- Always look for power lines when working outdoors. Coming into contact with energized equipment can **hurt or even kill you**.
- Stay away from power lines when using aluminum ladders, tree trimming and harvest equipment, or tools that extend above the head.
- Trees, branches, vines and brush are electricity conductors. Electrical shock can occur via indirect contact when plants grow close to power lines.
- When cutting or trimming trees, locate any electric lines and utility equipment that could touch the tree or branches being cut.
- When planting trees, refrain from planting closer than 25 feet from poles or other energized equipment. (Be sure to have underground lines and utilities located. Call 811 for Holey Moley before you dig.)
- A good rule of thumb is to treat all types of electrical lines and utility equipment as energized and avoid direct and indirect contact.
- It is common for trees to fall during high winds and stormy conditions. If a tree or branch falls into power lines or other energized equipment, stay away from the tree and energized equipment. Do not attempt to touch or remove the tree. Contact SCI REMC immediately.

**NOTICE:** Electric distribution lines (power lines) are not insulated to protect you against accidental contact!

If you have trees, limbs, vines or brush that have grown into or close to our electric distribution lines or equipment, contact the SCI REMC Vegetation Management Department.

At South Central Indiana REMC, we understand that this maintenance impacts the appearance of your trees and property.

That's why every effort will be made to leave as many native and ornamental tree species and low growing vegetation as possible.



We thank you in advance for your help, assistance and cooperation with this required maintenance procedure.

To help us better serve you, when you contact us, please have your account number ready. This will help us pinpoint your address and location faster.

**South Central Indiana REMC**  
**Vegetation Management Department**  
 300 Morton Ave. Martinsville, IN 46151  
**Office:** (765) 342-3344, ext. 159  
**Toll-free:** 1-800-264-7362



## Vegetation Management

*Clearing lines and rights of ways for safety and reliability*



## What is Vegetation Management?

SCI REMC's Vegetation Management Department is responsible for managing the vegetation that could come into contact with electric distribution lines along our 3,440 miles of overhead lines in seven counties. The vegetation could include trees, shrubs, brush, grasses, etc., within a utility line easement or right of way corridor.

## How is the right of way cleared?

The right of way is cleared by cutting, trimming, mowing and where permissible, applying herbicides. In most cases, all shrubs, brush and trees are removed under overhead electric distribution lines.

Cutting and trimming is done by trained, professional utility line clearance personnel using specific and proven industry standards.

The electric system is regularly inspected for dead, dying and leaning dangerous trees. When found, they are marked and then trimmed below the lines, or removed, to eliminate threat to electric distribution lines and equipment.

## Why do we trim trees?

Trees are generally the most common cause of power outages and lights to blink.

Trees and vegetation in the Right of Way can:

- Cause power outages and lights to blink
- Waste electricity by providing a path to the ground
- Become a fire hazard
- Be a safety hazard for workers and members
- Block visual inspections, making repairs difficult and increasing outage length

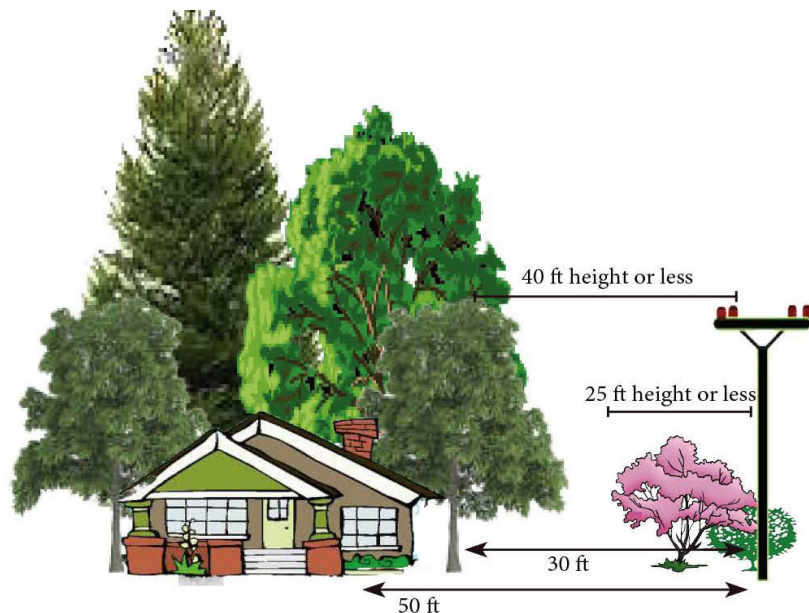
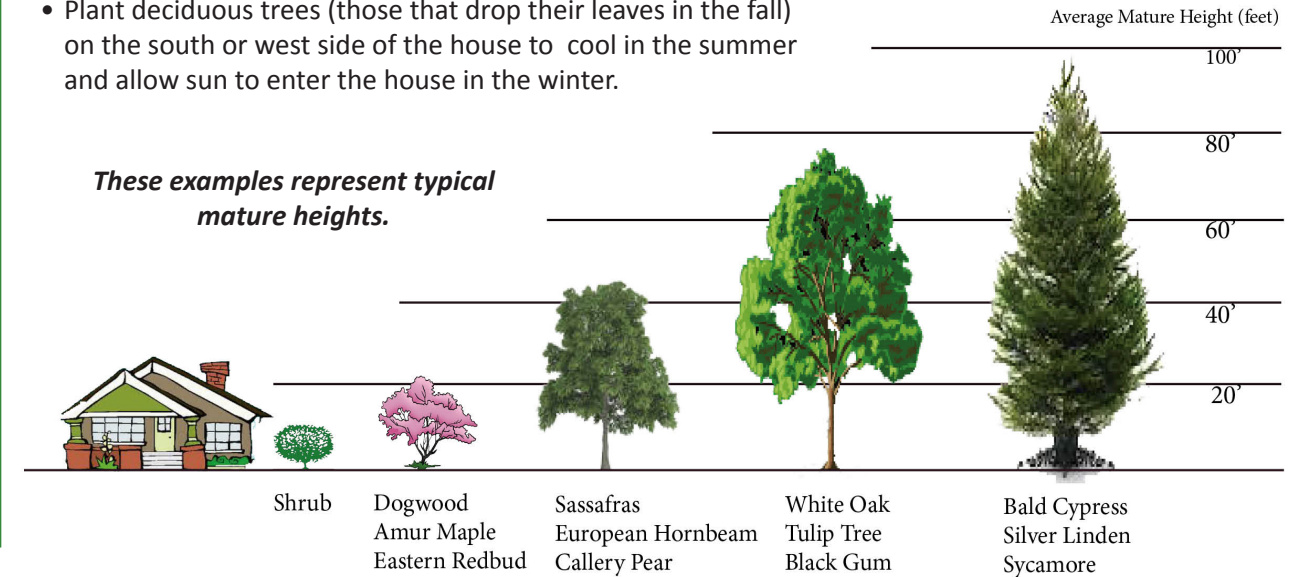
## How do we trim trees?

SCI REMC's in-house certified arborists and line clearance staff are trained to safely and properly trim and remove trees, limbs and branches from around electric distribution lines. The health and appearance of the trees is important to us at SCI REMC and the community. Where limbs come closer than six feet to the neutral or phase wires, they are trimmed with an eye for symmetry and natural shape of the tree when possible.

## Right Tree, Right Place

Proper tree selection and placement enhance your property value and prevent costly maintenance trimming and damage to your home. If you plan to plant a new tree, or replace an existing tree, please pay close attention to what type of tree you plant and where. When choosing a spot to plant your tree, make sure it will have plenty of room to grow to full maturity.

- Plant evergreen trees to serve as windbreaks on the west or north side, at least 50 feet from the house.
- Plant deciduous trees (those that drop their leaves in the fall) on the south or west side of the house to cool in the summer and allow sun to enter the house in the winter.



**Our rights of ways corridors are cleared on both sides of the electric pole to prevent fires, outages, and other hazards. If you plant trees near power lines, make sure that a tree with a mature height of 40 feet is at least 30 feet away from a power line.**

## Do we use herbicides?

SCI REMC uses herbicides to manage vegetation along overhead conductor corridors that has potential to grow too close to the lines, causing unsafe and unreliable electric service.

Research has shown that herbicide use on rights of ways can greatly enhance wildlife habitat diversity, while promoting low-growing plant communities.

We are committed to managing vegetation in ways that will have a minimal impact on our environment. We will only apply herbicide products that have been approved for use on utility rights of ways by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. All herbicides used on our rights of ways are applied by Indiana State Certified Applicators.

## Cleanup and Wood Chips

SCI REMC does not remove or dispose of any wood, storm debris or dead tree debris. Vegetation from the rights of ways after trimming will be chipped/wind rolled in the right of way or stacked for wildlife habitat cover. This is agreed upon at the time of notification with our Vegetation Management specialist.

If you are interested in receiving wood chips, free of charge, please let us know while we are in the area. There is no promise of chip delivery. It is on a first-come, first-served basis.