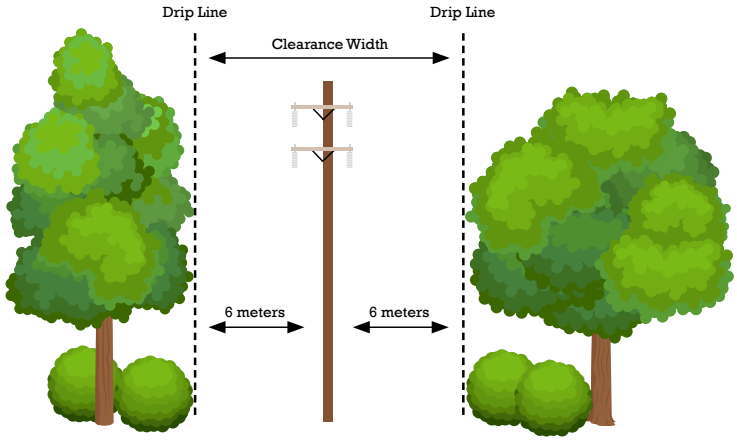
Utility Right of Way and Tree Planting

A utility right of way (ROW), also known as a utility corridor or power line corridor, is an area of land near a property line that allows access or transit permission to utility companies (including gas, water, cable, telephone, etc.) to perform routine maintenance or emergency repairs to their respective infrastructure. These ROW's can contain underground cables and equipment as well as above-ground equipment such as transformers, power poles and overhead power lines. It is imperative that the area remain clear of debris and vegetation to accommodate routine and emergency servicing.

To accommodate clearance, it is important that members keep this in mind when landscaping. Through the careful selection and planting of shrubs and trees on their land and planting wisely, members can assist their Coop in controlling overall costs. Shelterbelts and landscape trees planted the required distance from the utility right of way corridor can grow to their full potential and better fulfill their intended functions without the need for costly tree/vegetation maintenance around poles and lines. A landscaper or greenhouse will be able to provide you mature tree heights and widths, so you can measure accordingly when planting.

Some key factors when landscaping your property are:

- Allow 6 meters of clearance from the 'drip line' (outer edge of mature vegetation) to any system of energized lines or structures. This means that when planting a tree make sure the trunk distance at planting will allow for the mature canopy to be 6 meters from a power line or pole. Depending on the tree size at maturity this means the trunk should be an additional 3 - 9 meters from the 6 meter mark.
- The same applies for shrubs and hedge vegetation which can be planted at the outside edge of the 6 meter line but you need to choose plant types that will not over grow and encroach on the right of way corridor when mature.

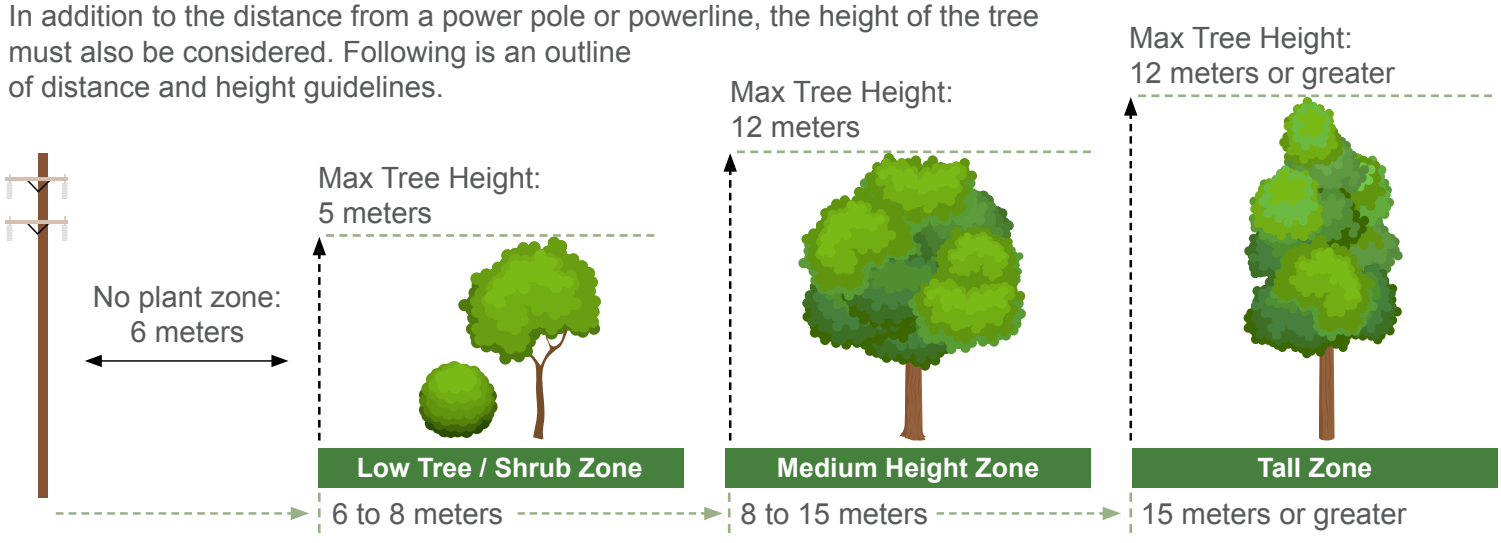


Certain shrubs used for hedges can be planted on the edge of the 6-meter mark while the distance of a tree depends on the width of the canopy when mature.

For secondary lines and member-owned equipment on their respective property they should practice safe distance planning as per the ROW guidelines. This will ensure that if any maintenance or repairs are required, vegetation will not impede the work of the powerline technicians. Note that Battle River Power Coop services secondary lines up to and including a member's power meter.

Height and Width Guidelines

In addition to the distance from a power pole or powerline, the height of the tree must also be considered. Following is an outline of distance and height guidelines.



Recognizing that members want to landscape, following are some potential shrubs and trees to consider in the various zones. This is not a complete list but hopefully will provide some examples for consideration.

Low Tree / Shrub Zone*

Tree/Shrub Type	Height at Maturity (meters)	Shrub/Tree Canopy Width at Maturity (meters)
Caragana	6.2	5.6
Dogwood (various)	2.5	2.5
Dwarf shrubs (Burning Bush, Holly, Caragana, Dogwood, etc.)	Average height is 1.5 to 2.5	Average width is 1.5 to 2.5
Common Lilac	4.7	3.7
Potentilla	1.2	1.2
Roses	1 to 5	.9 to 3.1
Spireas (various)	1.9	2.5

**Vegetation to be outside the no-plant zone and within 6 to 8 meters from the power pole with maximum height of 5 meters.*

Please note that plants that encroach on the no-plant zone could be subject to removal or substantial trimming if they impede the utility right of way. Vegetation management is a costly program for the Coop and members are encouraged to consider that when landscaping.

Medium Height Zone*

Tree Type	Height at Maturity (meters)	Tree Canopy Width at Maturity (meters)
Columnar Poplar or Swedish Aspen	9.3	1.2
Mayday	9.3	7.8
Mountain Ash	7.8	6.2
Nannyberry	5.6	3.1
Mugo Pine	6.2	7.8
Tartarian Maple	6.2	7.8
Pin Cherry	9.3	7.8

**Trees and other vegetation should be planted 8 to15 meters from the power pole with a maximum tree height of 12 meters.*

Tall Zone*

Tree Type	Height at Maturity (meters)	Tree Canopy Width at Maturity (meters)
Birch	21.7	18.6
Green Ash	15.5	15.5
Larch	24	7.8
Laurel Leaf Willow	12.4	9.3
Manitoba Maple	14	6.2
Pine (Scots, Jack or Lodgepole)	24	6.2
Spruce (white or blue)	31	9.3

**Trees to be planted 15 meters or more away from the power pole with a height of 12 meters or greater.*

Please contact **Battle River Power Coop (1-877-428-3972)** to discuss options for managing vegetation growth.