

A white silhouette of a person wearing a hard hat and safety harness, climbing a tree branch. The background is a solid teal color.

TREE TRIMMING GUIDELINES

Trees and other plants beautify our Communities and contribute to a healthy living environment. When planting trees and shrubs careful consideration should be given to balance the need for electrical safety and a reliable supply of electricity.



WHY DOES WASAGA DISTRIBUTION TRIM AND REMOVE TREES?

In order to balance the benefits of a healthy tree canopy with the needs for public safety and electricity supply reliability, Wasaga Distribution Inc. conducts a Tree Trimming Program throughout the year. The purpose of the program is to ensure public safety and to provide a reliable electrical service to all customers by reducing unscheduled power interruptions.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TREE TRIMMING?

Wasaga Distribution is responsible for keeping overhead power lines free from trees and other vegetation.

Our line inspectors monitor and gather data about trees in proximity to overhead power lines on a regular basis. They will trim trees that are directly in contact with a power line, or within three (3) meters of a power line.

As a property owner, you are responsible for keeping the service wire going into your property clear of vegetation and tree foliage. Trimming or removal of trees near hydro wires should be completed by an arborist.

SAFETY

Anyone who prunes or climbs trees that are in contact with the power lines is putting themselves into potentially highly dangerous situations. Trees and the ground around them may become energized when branches come into contact with the power lines. A momentary contact between the tree and energized power lines could be fatal to anyone who is in the proximity of the tree.

RELIABILITY

Trees are a significant cause of power outages. Outages from trees are caused by branches rubbing on power lines, branches falling on power lines, and trees falling across power lines during storms. By trimming power lines on a regular schedule to a minimum clearance, Wasaga Distribution will eliminate predictable safety hazards and reduce tree-related outages.

ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY

The Electricity Act of Ontario grants access for Wasaga Distribution to "enter and maintain any land for the purpose of cutting down and removing trees, branches or other obstructions."

LIMITATION

Wasaga Distribution Inc. will trim or remove trees within three (3) meters of the power corridor.

TREE PLANTING ADVICE

STEP 1

STAY SAFE

- Before you begin planting, consider the area as well as the tools and equipment required.

STEP 3

LOOK UP

- It is very important to consider a tree's size at maturity when planting near overhead power lines.

STEP 2

EASEMENTS

• Verify that the site you are considering for your tree or shrub is not an easement. Easements provide Wasaga Distribution Inc. the legal right to access private property to install and maintain the electrical distribution system.

STEP 4

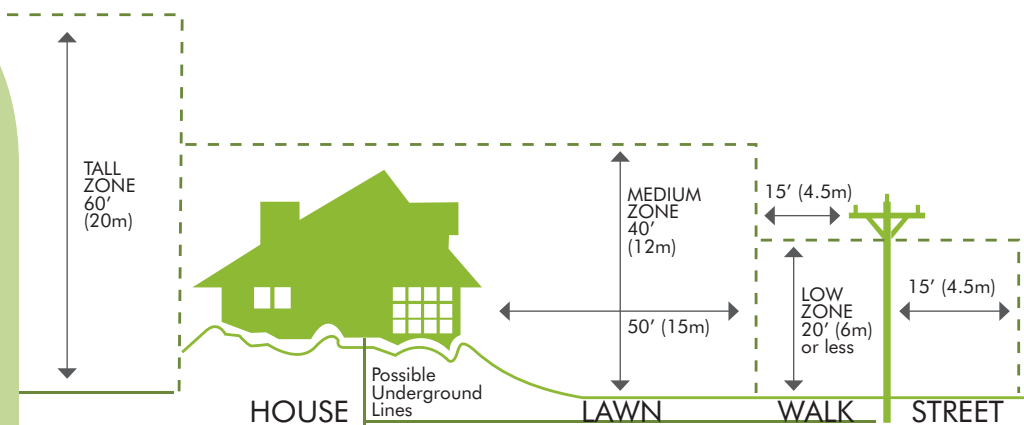
LOOK DOWN

- Before you dig, think about what services might be buried in the ground, locates should be completed by ON1Call before any digging begins.
- When planting maintain a safe distance between landscape and equipment sitting at ground level such as transformers and switches (green metal boxes).

TREE PLANTING

Homeowners can avoid service interruptions, help reduce costs and maintain a pleasant environment by ensuring trees of the correct size and species are planted near power lines.

Recommended distances when planting trees based on mature tree height →



CONTACT

If you notice a tree near an overhead power line, or you need a temporary outage to trim or remove trees on your property, contact us by telephone at **(705) 429-2517** weekdays between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm (excluding statutory holidays). Or email us at hydro@wasagadist.ca