

# ***Utility Planting Guide***

***for Transmission Line Rights of Way***



**GeorgiaTransmission**

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## ***RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE***

Electric utility workers need year-round access to power lines and towers at all hours of the day for maintenance and repair. That is the purpose of corridors or clearings around electric transmission lines called rights of way. Tall-growing vegetation under lines can pose safety hazards for workers, cause power outages and increase maintenance costs. Plants that grow taller than 15 feet are unacceptable in the right-of-way area and will be removed. However, some smaller plants are acceptable and even desired. Putting the right plants in the right place helps ensure utilities will be able to keep the lights on.





## IT'S ALL IN THE PLANNING

If planting close to power lines or within the easement area, follow guidelines described in this brochure.

### Below Wire Area

Underneath the wires, low-growing grasses and perennials work well. Personal gardens are permitted but must allow utility trucks to travel down the right of way so workers may perform maintenance on a routine basis.

#### Planting Suggestions

The area below the tower/pole presents a unique opportunity to naturalize the power line rights of way using native grass species. Native warm season grasses once inhabited open areas known as barrens in the Southern region of the United States. Today, due to development and urbanization, only a fraction of this grassland remains. Grasses and perennials provide wildlife habitat, promote biodiversity of plant and animal

species, prevent erosion, ensure safe access to the power line and minimize maintenance, which reduces cost and the need for frequent intrusion. In addition, ground covers and annual vegetable gardens also are allowed in this area.

### Remaining Right-of-Way Area

Shrubs up to a maximum height of 15 feet are allowed in the remaining area of the right of way. Plants that exceed 15 feet will be removed.

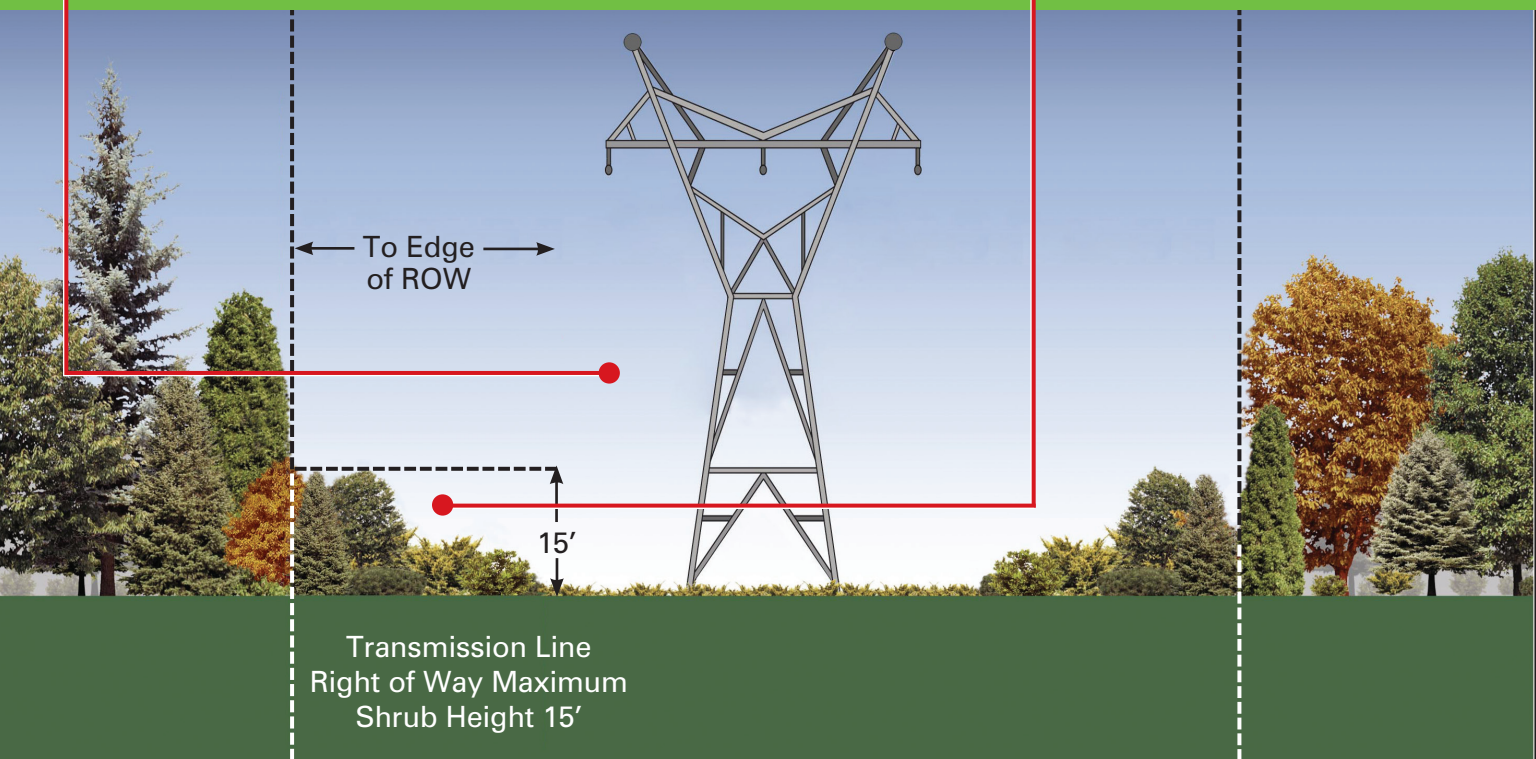
#### Planting Suggestions

This area allows for a mosaic of vegetation up to 15 feet in height. The taller plants provide screening, seasonal interest and privacy along the right of way. Smaller ornamental shrubs and perennial edible plants such as blueberries and blackberries also are permitted.

**REMEMBER:  
CALL BEFORE  
YOU DIG,  
IT'S THE LAW  
– DIAL 811 or  
1-800-282-7411**

Notify the Utilities Protection Center at least two days before work begins. On a right of way, near a power line or even in your own yard, always "Call before you Dig, It's the Law." Even small jobs like planting a shrub or hedge can pose serious risks. One easy phone call to 811 gets your utility lines marked for free.

## Right-of-Way Vegetation Areas (Transmission)



### **GRASSES**

- \*Andropogon gerardii – Big Bluestem
- \*Andropogon virginicus – Broomsedge
- \*Aristida stricta – Southern Wiregrass
- Bouteloua curtipendula – Sideoats grama
- Chasmanthium latifolium – River Oats
- Elymus virginicus – Virginia Wildrye
- \*Erianthus giganteus – Plume grass
- \*Muhlenbergia capillaris – Pink Muhly Grass
- \*Panicum virgatum – Switchgrass
- Pennisetum alopecuroides – Dwarf Fountain Grass
- Pennisetum villosum – Feathertop Grass
- \*Schizachyrium scoparium – Little bluestem
- \*Sorghastrum nutans – Indian grass

### **GROUNDCOVERS**

- \*Gelsemium sempervirens – Carolina Yellow Jessamine
- Hemerocallis spp. – Daylily
- Hypericum calycinum – St. John wort
- Liriope muscari – Lily turf
- Liriope spicata – Creeping Lily turf
- Phlox subulata – Thrift
- Rosemarinus officinalis – Rosemary
- Santolina chamaecyparissus
- Lavender Cotton
- Sedum – various

### **Plants 6-10 Feet Tall**

- Abelia grandiflora – Glossy abelia
- \*Aesculus parviflora – Bottlebrush buckeye
- Agarista populifolia – Flordia Leucothoe
- Aronia arbutifolia – Red Chokeberry
- Aucuba japonica – Aucuba
- Berberis julianae – Barberry
- Berberis thunbergii – Japanese Barberry
- Buddleia davidii – Butterfly Bush
- Buxus microphylla – Japanese Boxwood
- Buxus sempervirens – Box wood
- \*Callicarpa – various – Beautyberry
- \*Calycanthus floridus – Sweetshrub
- Camellia sasanqua – Camellia
- Camellia sinensis – Tea Plant
- \*Cephalanthus occidentalis – Buttonbush
- Chamaecyparis obtusa – Nana Gracillis
- Chaenomeles speciosa – Quince
- \*Clethra alnifolia – Summersweet
- Cleyera japonica – Cleyera Ternstroemia
- \*Corylopsis species – False Witch hazel
- Cytisus scoparius – Scotch Broom
- Deutzia scabra – Fuzzy Deutzia
- Distylium myricoides – Blue Leaf Isu
- Edgeworthia papyrifera – Paperbush
- \*Euonymus americanus – Hearts-a-bustin
- Euonymus alatus – Winged Euonymus
- Forsythia x intermedia – Border Forsythia
- Forstythia suspensa – Weeping Forsythia
- \*Fothergilla major – Large Fothergilla
- Gardenia jasminoides – Gardenia
- Hibiscus syriacus – Rose of Sharon
- Hydrangea paniculata – Panicle Hydrangea
- \*Hydrangea quercifolia – Oakleaf Hydrangea
- Ilex crenata – species
- Ilex cornuta – Burfordi nana
- \*Ilex glabra – Inkberry Holly
- Ilex verticillata – Winterberry
- Illicium spp. – Anise tree
- Indigofera amblyantha – Indigo
- \*Itea virginica – Virginia sweetsprie
- Kolkwitzia amabilis – Beautybush
- \*Lindera benzoin-Spicebush
- Lonicera fragrantissima
- Winter Honeysuckle
- Leucothoe axillaris – Coastal Leucothoe
- Leucothoe populifolia – Leucothoe
- Mahonia aquifolium – Oregon Grape Holly
- Michelia figo – Banana Shrub
- Pyracantha coccinea – Firethorn
- Pieris japonica – Japanese Pieris
- Pittosporum tobira – Japanese Pittosporum
- Prunus triloba var. multiplex
- Flowering Almond
- Pyracantha coccinea – Scarlet Firethorn
- Raphiolepis indica – Indian Hawthorn
- \*Sabal minor – Dwarf Palmetto
- Spiraea cantoniensis – Reeves' Spirea
- Spiraea prunifolia – Bridalwreath Spirea
- Spiraea x vanhoutteei – Vanhoutte Spirea
- Stachyurus praecox
- Syringa vulgaris – Common Lilac
- Ternstroemia gymnanthera
- Japanese Cleyera
- Vaccinium – Blueberry
- Viburnum opulus – European Cranberry
- Viburnum nudum – Winterthur
- \*Viburnum rafinesquianum
- Downy Arrowwood
- Viburnum tinus – Laurustinus
- Weigela florida – Weigela