

Why is a clear right-of-way important?



A clear right-of-way improves power quality, reliability and safety.

We all enjoy trees, but when they interfere with power lines, reliability and safety are compromised. That's why it's important to remove trees, branches and brush from the right-of-way.

Trees and vegetation in the right-of-way:

1. Cause power outages
2. Cause lights to blink
3. Obstruct visual inspections, making repairs difficult and costly
4. Block access for maintenance and repairs, causing delays
5. Waste electricity by drawing it into the ground
6. Become a fire hazard
Polk-Burnett works with the DNR to help prevent forest fires by removing trees near high-voltage power lines.
7. Become a safety hazard for utility workers and members
Children and adults should never climb, trim or touch trees that contact power lines.



Clear rights-of-way give line crews the ability to respond to storm damage with minimal disruption of electricity.

Clear rights-of-way give line crews safe access to the power lines.

Co-op linemen don't have to cut their way in to reach repair areas and they are able to restore power more quickly for you, our members.

For more information, contact:

Rights-of-Way Manager

715-646-2191

800-421-0283

Extension 329

November 2010



Polk-Burnett Right-of-Way & Planting Guide



A clear right-of-way reduces power outages and improves safety for everyone!

What is the right-of-way program?



When trees interfere with power lines, members experience outages. Trees are a major cause of power outages.

Polk-Burnett's right-of-way (ROW) program requires removing vegetation, typically, from a 20-foot corridor on both sides of power lines to ensure safe conditions and reliable power.

History

Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative delivers power with a system of 2,000 miles of overhead power lines. Until the late 1990s, much of this system was overgrown with trees, brush, branches and vegetation. In 1996, the co-op established a proactive strategy to reclaim the rights-of-way near power lines. During the first 10 years of the ROW program, Polk-Burnett invested about \$10 million for clearing its rights-of-way. This investment in safety and service for members has reduced emergency clearings, major power outages and dangerous conditions.

Now that the initial clearing is done, Polk-Burnett continues its commitment to the rights-of-way with regular maintenance.

We appreciate your cooperation.



How is the right-of-way cleared?



The right-of-way is cleared by cutting, trimming, mowing and where permissible, applying herbicides.

Polk-Burnett treats all members equally when removing vegetation.

In most cases, all shrubs, brush and trees are removed under primary (main), high-voltage overhead power lines. They are also removed, as necessary, underneath and around secondary, low-voltage power lines that bring power from the transformer to your meter.

Cutting and trimming is done by trained, professional utility tree trimmers using specific and proven standards typical to the industry.



The electric system is regularly inspected for dead, dying and leaning danger trees. When found, they are marked (left) and then trimmed or removed to eliminate threat to power lines.

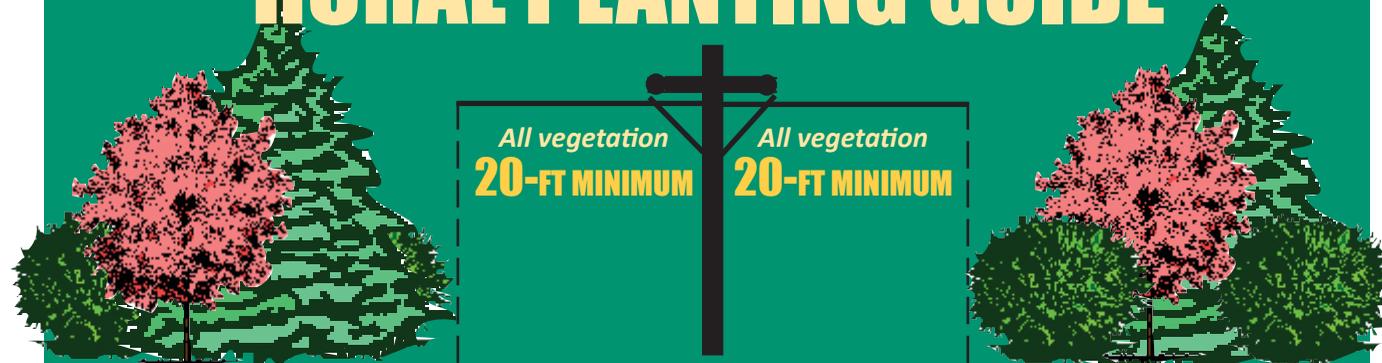


All vegetation must be planted away from power lines, so that mature branches cannot grow into the right-of-way. Vegetation that is planted or grows into the right-of-way needs to be cut or trimmed. Vegetation within 20 feet on either side of the power line is at risk for removal due to power line maintenance, repair and replacement. For safe, reliable electric service, follow these guidelines:

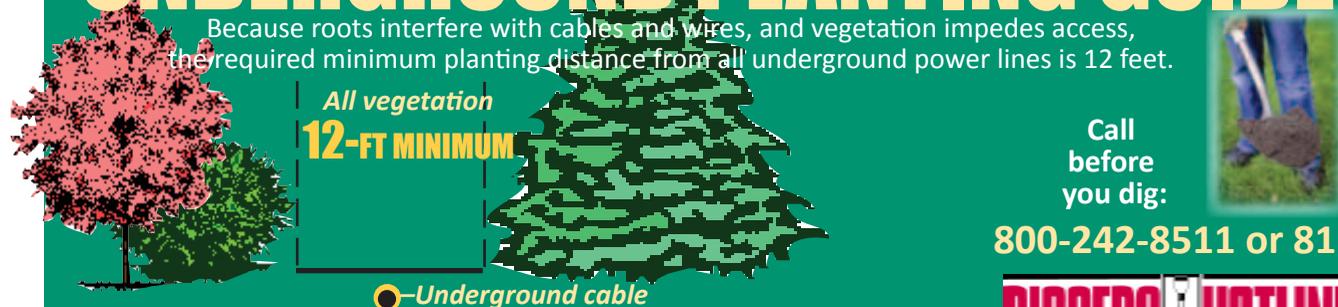
YARD PLANTING GUIDE



RURAL PLANTING GUIDE



UNDERGROUND PLANTING GUIDE



Also, keep areas around electric meters and green transformer boxes clear of vegetation and obstructions that could limit access for repairs.

Call
before
you dig:

800-242-8511 or 811



What is the Karner blue butterfly program?



Polk-Burnett is pleased to work with the DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help preserve and study the Karner blue butterfly.

Habitat sites are marked in the right-of-way for utility crews and landowners.



What happens to the cut wood and chips?

Logs are the property of the landowner. Branches and small debris are left to decompose where they are cut. In maintained yard areas, branches and small debris are chipped and removed unless otherwise requested by the member. If you would like your name added to a waiting list for wood chips, we *may* be able to bring a load to your property on a first-come, first-serve basis when we're cutting in your area. Chips are mixed wood, leaves and pine needles. **For chips or wood information, contact: 800-421-0283, ext. 329.**

What happens if I plant in the right-of-way?

In the best interest of all members, new plantings are not allowed in the right-of-way. Upon notification, plants need to be transplanted or removed.

Can power lines be buried?

In certain situations, upon landowner request, overhead power lines may be reconstructed underground. Contact the co-op about necessary costs, easements and other requirements.