

SOMERSET RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE RIGHT OF WAY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

CLEARING POWER LINES FOR RELIABILITY AND SAFETY.



Our vegetation management program helps minimize storm damage and power outages. However, the program does not clean up trees and limbs downed by storms.

When emergency efforts to restore power require the removal of trees or limbs from power lines, the trees or limbs are left in as safe a manner as conditions allow.

Cleaning up debris left by storms or emergency restoration work is the responsibility of property owners.

Trees are a major cause of blinks and outages on Somerset Rural Electric's system. Brush growing near power lines hinders a repair crew's ability to get to damaged lines quickly and adds to outage restoration time. Keeping power lines clear of trees and brush is essential for safe, reliable electric service.

Please remember any tree in or near a power line right-of-way that poses a safety or reliability threat may be trimmed or removed. You can prevent trimming or cutting trees by planting the right tree in the right place (see below).

In non-yard (non-maintained) areas, Somerset REC clears the full width of the right-of-way.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Please do not plant trees or shrubs next to green transformer boxes (for underground electric service) and electric meters. Trees with shallow surface roots or deep spreading roots can damage them. We also need access to our electrical equipment for routine maintenance and, if necessary, to restore power for you.

MEMBER NOTIFICATIONS

Automated phone calls are sent by the cooperative to notify members if tree-trimming contractors will be working near power lines in their area.

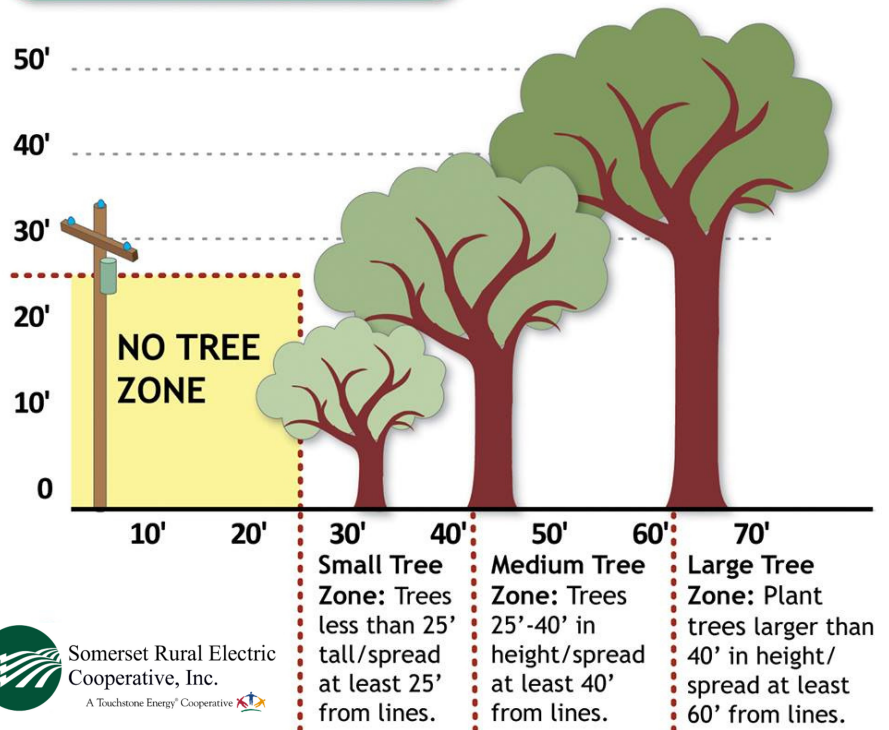
Contractors also attempt to contact members by knocking on doors or by phone calls prior to work being done.

Please keep your phone number records up-to-date to ensure we can reach you.

Being proactive about right-of-way maintenance helps to keep the power flowing and your lights on.

We appreciate the phone calls we receive about potential issues and hope you continue to keep us informed. We cannot always get to all of the tree issues in one day, but calls are documented and work is done as time permits.

Tree Planting Guide



If you have any questions about right-of-way maintenance, please contact the cooperative office.



814-445-4106



service@somersetrec.com

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PLANT THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard. Listed below are common species of trees and shrubs at matured growth.

SMALL TREES

Height/spread of
no more than 25 feet:

Star Magnolia
Dwarf fruit trees
Lilac

MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of
25 to 40 feet:

Washington Hawthorn
Golden Raintree
Eastern Redbud
American Arborvitae
Dogwoods

LARGE TREES

Height/spread of
more than 40 feet:

Maple
Oak
Spruce
Pine
Birch
Linden



The diagram located on the other side of this handout is a great visual when planting trees.

LANDOWNER COOPERATION

A key factor in any right-of-way (ROW) maintenance is landowner cooperation.

Before you, our member, make a commitment to ROW maintenance, you may be asking yourself why the cooperative, or any utility for that matter, needs to trim, cut or spray any vegetation on your land.

The bottom line is that strict industry regulations mandate that power lines and ROW's surrounding them must be clear of possible hazards caused by trees or vegetation.



ROW AGREEMENT

All members of Somerset REC are required to complete a notarized right-of-way agreement. Each new member agreement is recorded at the property's respective county courthouse and kept on file at the cooperative.

Notary service for this document is available free of charge at the cooperative office.

WOOD DISPOSAL & STUMP REMOVAL

Maintained Areas

After a tree is pruned or removed, small tree limbs and branches are run through a chipper. Wood that is too large for the chipper is cut into manageable lengths and left on the property near the base of the tree or moved to the side of the right-of-way.

Wooded Areas

The limbs and brush are piled at the edge of the right-of-way and cut into smaller pieces. The logs are left whole or in manageable pieces, depending on what arrangements the property owner specified.

In both **maintained** and **wooded** areas, utility crews do not remove stumps or roots of trees. Typically, stumps will be cut off flush with the ground and disposal or use of all such wood is the property owner's responsibility. Trees that are located in fence rows or that contain metal, cement, rocks, etc. will be cut above the interfering material.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Be **safe!** Always call 811 *before* you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

HERBICIDE PROGRAM

Herbicide application is a cost-effective tool used for maintaining right-of-ways.

The forestry herbicides applied are EPA-approved and allow low growing species that pose no threat to overhead lines to later develop.

Herbicide application is applied only by state-licensed professionals.



ALWAYS ASSUME POWER LINES ARE ENERGIZED. REMOVING TREES NEAR POWER LINES CAN BE DANGEROUS. NEVER ATTEMPT TO REMOVE A TREE NEAR OR ON A POWER LINE. STAY BACK AND CALL SOMERSET REC FOR ASSISTANCE. ALSO, NEVER LET CHILDREN PLAY IN TREES THAT ARE CLOSE TO POWER LINES.