

# City of Tallahassee

## Your Own Utilities<sup>SM</sup>

### Planting Trees Near Overhead Electric Power Lines

As everyone knows, trees are a wonderful addition to your landscape. They keep you cool in the hot summer sun. They make a great place to hang a tire swing for your children. They also provide food and cover for a wide variety of wildlife. As wonderful as trees are, they don't get along well with overhead power lines, at least most of them don't.

While your Electric & Gas Utility does not encourage planting trees near overhead power lines there are times when it is unavoidable. These include:

1. Local ordinances require the planting of trees to replace ones that were removed during construction of a new home or business.
2. You want to plant a tree in memory of a loved one, but you have a small yard with power lines running across the front of it.
3. You and your children just want to plant a tree to celebrate Arbor Day.

To handle these types of situations the City's Electric & Gas Utility Forester has developed a list of trees that are "power-line friendly". This means that they can grow to maturity without needing to be pruned away from the main electric lines along the street. Some of these suggested trees provide color to your yard, food for the birds, some can be used to screen off unsightly areas, and some can even help conserve energy.

So, when you get ready to plant a tree in your yard, be sure to look up first. If power lines are close choose from the list below. For questions about this list or other tree related issues contact your Electric & Gas Utility Forester at: [john.tedder@talgov.com](mailto:john.tedder@talgov.com)

### Recommended Trees For Planting Near Overhead Electric Power Lines

1. Southern Flowering Crabapple	10. "Star" Magnolia
2. Tree Sparkleberry	11. Chickasaw Plum
3. Fringe Tree	12. Yellow Anise
4. Washington Hawthorne	13. Burford Holly
5. Possum Haw	14. Nelly R Stevens Holly
6. Japanese Maple var. "Blood Good"	15. Weeping Yaupon Holly
7. May Hawthorne (Mayhaw)	16. Tea Olive
8. Red Buckeye	17. Wax Myrtle
9. Crepe Myrtles: Choose from the following varieties:	18. Salt Bush
a. white - "Acoma" or "Burgundy Cotton"	19. Confederate Rose
b. purple - "Catawba" or "Zuni"	20. Rusty Black Haw
c. pink - "Sioux", "Hopi", or "Pink Velour"	
d. red - "Tonto", "Cheyenne" or "Arapahoe"	
e. lavender - "Yuma"	